AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY

VOL 18 No. 839 — TUESDAY AUGUST 19, 1997 • REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST — PUBLICATION No NBQ5726 $2.50

Parramatta sweep majestically towards Grand Finals in NSW Soccer

1997 has been a season in which Parramatta Eagles have dominated the NSW Soccer Federation Super League competition.

Some shrewd signings, as the year progressed, has seen their teams go from strength to strength. The arrival in particular of Steve Karavatakis and Gabriel Mendez added new facets to an already glittering team.

On Sunday, at Gabbie Stadium, the Eagles first team demolished Bonnyrigg White Eagles by 4 goals to 1. Saso Petrovski helped himself to a hat-trick and leading scorer Karavatakis scored a spectacular header.

Earlier Parramatta's Under 21s overcame a determined Macarthur Rams by the odd goal in three. Before high noon the club's Under 18 combination accounted for Blacktown City 2-0.

This takes all three of the former National League club's senior teams to Grand Final appearances, on Sunday August 31.

They have already collected the first prize money. Now they are in line, and favourites, for the biggest pay day of the season.

PASCOE VALE SPORTSCENE/ ABSW PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN VSF PAGE 2

1974 SOCCEROO SPECIALS PAGES 3, 4, 12, 13

Australia's Women hold Netherlands PAGE 18

POMPEY or NOT POMPEY? THAT IS THE QUESTION

Current Socceroo international Craig Foster is, surprisingly, still in Australia although, by rights, he was expected to have joined his new team-mates, and a few familiar faces, at Portsmouth before now.

During the past ten days, faxes have been flying backwards and forwards between the club, Foster and the British Home Office. Problems associated with obtaining a work permit have been compounded by an official Home Office statute that stipulates: Any player applying for a work permit must remain outside the UK until it is approved.

Most clubs have flaunted this rule, Kalac and Enes at Portsmouth for example, however, the situation looks likely to be resolved within the next two weeks with Foster ready to fly out at a moments notice.

"I was to join them last week but have now been advised to remain in Australia until everything is sorted out. It's frustrating as it would have been nice to train with the squad while the permit is being processed but it just isn't to be", admitted the player speaking to ABSW yesterday.

Foster trained with former club Marconi Fairfield for a couple of days, fully expecting to be on a flight to England shortly afterwards. This agreement has now ceased He has embarked on a rigid, solo fitness program instead, to be in peak physical shape when the red tape clears.

He added, "I'm itching to get over there and join in. I wake up wondering whether this is to be the day. I'm under no illusions whatsoever, I'm sure I'll train with the squad for a couple of weeks before I make a first-team appearance."

It would now seem certain that Foster will depart these shores within the next seven days, providing that typical government departmental delaying tactics, play no further part in proceedings.

Encouraging new clubs to form is vital

— Bob Brooks

Most winter sports are now into their final games of the season. The so called football codes are certainly at that end of their competitions.

Of course where there are grounds which have cricket pitches in the middle, then they have to be prepared for that game.

The problem of shared pitches, gives unfair treatment to Soccer. Leases for winter sports tend to run out at the end of August. Summer activities then take over for September through the end of March. If you calculate that properly, it is seven months!

Soccer gets a raw deal, in those circumstances.

However there are newer parks where sense has prevailed and cricket pitches have not been laid in the middle of winter sports areas.

In NSW, that is the area administered by the NSWSF, teams will be setting off in September in quest of becomming the Champion of Champions.

Each Association or District decides their first division champions in age group from Under 9 to All Age.

A draw takes place, which in the First Round takes a Sydney Association to a country district. All the teams from that area then go to play against their respective age group in the bush.

For instance teams from the Manly area could travel to far South Coast. A trip from Manly to Bega by coach is at least ten hours. It used to be that the country teams were easy beats, that situation has changed over the years.

With the increasing influence of the Regional Directors of Coaching the standards and numbers playing in country areas will inevitably increase in both quantity and quality.

This can only be good for the World Game. With the right type of approach, Association Football is in a position to become the dominant code.

With the chaos continuing in the rugby league camp and parents preferring that their offspring play anything else but rugby, then again Soccer is in a prime position to become number one in everyone's mind.

As rugby retreats, grounds of the right size and shape become available for real football. As well as coaching expertise, there needs to be encouragement and training in how to set up and run clubs at junior level.

Possibly some of the people with experience and knowledge of running clubs, and who have finished full time employment, could be selected, trained and sent out to assist in starting clubs. After all it is little use improving coaching expertise if there are few clubs to absorb the new found skills.

The Department of Sport and Recreation organised a similar series of five by two hour lectures some years ago. This scheme has no need to be expensive.

However if a potential new Club has no driving force and no suitable person to be Secretary and lack of a person to look after the finances, then they will go nowhere.

The personal attributes necessary for these types of positions can be recognised. After that they can be developed with training.

There are existing clubs which have records of every player who has ever been with them. They can tell how many games any one boy, girl, man or woman has played for the club.

There are a number which have enjoyed the devoted service of a Secretary for 20 or more years.

Some coaches enjoy working with junior players and seeing them develop. Many of these have been undertaking a similar role for years.

Our code has the infrastructure, the will, the exposure through the Socceroos, the brilliant opportunity through the Sydney 2000 Olympic Football Tournament, to become the number one sport in Australia.

If we can all pull together then we can do it!

NICK VAN EGMOND WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

By DWYGHT TUFFNELL

Bentleigh Greens' Nick Van Egmond is the 1997 winner of the Pascoe Vale Sportscene/ABSW Player of the Year.

Van Egmond, with 27 votes, won from Altona Magic's George Jolevski who collected 24 votes.

The Bentleigh midfielder is a hot favourite for both the Bill Fleming and Gold Medals, scoring16 goals for the free scoring Bentleigh side.

He won the Gold Medal in 1994 while playing for Croydon City who, in the same season, were relegated.

He spent two seasons with Croydon in the first division before returning this year to the Premier League with the Greens.

Van Egmond joins former winners such as Brian MacNicol, Josip Skoko and his Bentleigh team mate Ike Alagiozidis.

Van Egmond will be presented with his trophy and a cheque for $500 kindly donated by Maurice Raponi of Pascoe Vale Sportscene on Grand Final day.

Nick Van Egmond (R): Midfield Star of Bentleigh Greens and 1997 Pascoe Vale Sportscene Player of the Year trophy.

All Club Top Vote Getters

Altona Magic:	George Jolevski 24
Bentleigh Greens:	Nick Van Egmond 27
Bulleen Inter Kings:	Eric Hollingsworth 14
Fawkner Blues:	Peter Bordignon 14
Green Gully Cavaliers:	Vlad Babic 14
Heidelberg United:	George Sviqos 16
Melton Reds:	Kamer Simsek 11
Nth Geelong Warriors:	John Didulica 12
Port Melbourne Sharks:	Nick Papadopoulos 15
Preston Lions:	Ivan Filiposki 19
Springvale White Eagles:	Predrag Mladenovic 20
St Albans Saints:	Ivan Colina 18
Sunshine Georgies:	Sash Markovski 15
Thomastown Zebras:	Nick Lazarevski 10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2.....Editorial. Pascoe Vale Sportscene/ .....ABSW Player of the Year
3, 4 .....World Cup 74 Dinner
4.....Soccer Holiday in Fiji
5.....Steve Maxwell — Profile
6 .....Letters to the Editor
7 .....Rising Stars
8, 9..... Soccer NSW
10 .....Around the Clubs. NSW & .....Qld News
11 .....Soccer Canberra
12.....Jimmy Mackay 1974 Socceroo
13 .....Jack Reilly 1974 Socceroo
14, 15 .....Soccer Victoria
16.....Results WA, NNSW, QLD
17 .....Alfa Travel
18 .....Women's Writes
19.....Soccer South Australia
20 .....South America
21.....Britain 1928-29
22.....UK News
23 .....News in Brief
BACK: .....Iran — Maybe Australia's .....Opponents In November

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Australia's 1974 WORLD CUP DINNER

Rasic Vividly Remembers The Terrors Of Tehran

By JOHN ECONOMOS

"Iran in the away leg played was most terrifying to say the least. They were by far our most dangerous opponents, and in Tehran they had me and Australia extremely worried."

Two indelible and vividly clear statements, Australia's 1974 World Cup coach, Rale Rasic, recounted last week when ABSW asked him to name which game proved to be Australia's hardest.

Despite 23 summers having elapsed, the time factor has failed to lessen the scars of terror of Iran which today, are still cemented in the minds of Rasic and his boys of '74.

Ray Baartz (L) and Rale Rasic: The dynamic striker with the fierce shot, missed WM 74 because he was felled by a Chilean player at the SCG and never took the field again.

Seven Matches Undefeated

ON the 'Road To West Germany', Australia had played seven World Cup qualifiers for three draws and four wins. Progressively wiping out New Zealand, Iraq, Indonesia and the dangerous Iran 3-0 in Sydney.

But now it was the eighth qualifier — the away-leg against Iran.

From the moment Australia's World Cup 'soldiers' landed in Tehran, it was terrifying: The battle had begun.

Almost a full week before the match kicked off, the hostile Iran crowds got behind their home team, and there was a suspiciously long delay for Australia's private meat supplies to be delivered to their hotel.

Crowds gathered outside their hotel all night, throwing stones and making a din to make sure the Aussies had an energy-sapping restless sleep.

Match day finally arrived and no less than 100,000 hysterical Iranians jammed into the huge stadium creating a non stop deafening noise.

A ferocious cacophony designed to instil fear into the Australian team and similtaneously inspire their own team.

Within 27 minutes, the scoreboard read: Iran 2-Australia 0.

Sixty three minutes of Hell

AUSTRALIA having won the first leg 3-0, could the 'Green and Gold' now keep the Iranians from scoring one more goal?

Rasic continued. "The huge crowd lifted Iran's team.

"The defeaning, non-stop noise for the entire 90 minutes was unbearable. My players couldn't hear one another's calls from just a few metres apart. Australia was magnificent. The entire team showed unbelievable strong, unyielding character. They were defiant to the hostile enemy.

"My captain and sweeper Peter Wilson, our magnificent centre back Johnny Watkiss, centre forward, the tough Maxie Tolson were committed warriors. The whole Australian side was just an incredible unit of fighters and no matter what Iran did, Australia stopped them on that day from scoring that vital and most precious life-saving extra goal.

"Yes, without doubt. Unquestionably so. That away match against Iran, was easily the most dangerous battle Australia fought in getting to West Germany," underlined Rasic.

'74 World Cup Dinner

FRIDAY August 29th promises to be a very special, and certainly a most nostalgic day and evening, largely thanks to the energetic efforts of the Port Kembla Soccer Club, current champions of the Illawarra League.

For on this special day, as we broke in last week's edition, Australia's heroic 1974 World Cup squad, (Australia's only squad to have qualified for any World Cup Finals), will, after some 23 years be re-assembled at Port Kembla to be honoured at a special function dinner.

Back in '74, our proud national squad had to grind their way through no less than 11 tough gruelling World Cup qualifiers, three matches more than today's national team fighting to get to France next year.

The major inspiration behind the dinner is the Club's

Continued on pg. 4

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Australia's line up (pictured left) for the last match against Chile (L-R): Jimmy Rooney, Col Curran, Manfred Schaefer, Atti Abonyi, Jimmy Mackay, Ray Richards, Dougie Utjesenovic, Adrian Alston, Branko Buljevic, Jack Reilly, Peter Wilson (capt).

Australia's 1974 World Cup squad arriving in Hamburg, West Germany — Peter Van Ryn Australia's physiotherapist is the first of the Australian contingent to set foot on German soil.

Continued from pg. 3

current coach and former World Cup striker, Adrian Alston. The Board Of Directors of the Port Kembla Soccer Club will be staging this very special historic dinner at the Fraternity Club on the south coast of NSW.

Vince Raschilla, President of the Club, stated to ABSW last night, "This dinner will be long remembered. We are going to salute Australia '74.

"This dinner will be highly steeped in nostalgia seeing those '74 players altogether again. We have reproduced a special souvenir poster which will be autographed by all the players and given out to all attending the dinner which will cost $74:00 for a fabulous five course affair that will include all drinks," ended a very proud Mr Raschilla.

The entire '74 squad will be accommodated for two nights at the 'Fairway's Motel' at the Golf Club.

Fans wishing to relive and re-acquaint themselves with our '74 Soccer heroes must book now for strictly limited tickets to this historic dinner.

World Cup '74 Dinner Tickets on Sale from:

President: Vince Raschilla 042 852048

Senior Vice President: Emilio Salucci 0419 261664

Functions Secretary: Nicole 042 764755

Road to West Germany '74:

V New Zealand (1-1) in Auckland
V Iraq (3-1) in Sydney
V Iraq (0-0) in Melbourne
V New Zealand (3-3) in Sydney
V Indonesia (2-1) in Sydney
V Indonesia (6-0) in Sydney
V Iran (3-0) in Sydney
V Iran (2-0) in Tehran
V South Korea (0-0) in Sydney
V South Korea (2-2) in Seoul
V South Korea (1-0) in Hong Kong-central midfielder Jimmy Mackay's drive from 30 metres in the 75th minute sends Australia to the World Cup for first time

At the Finals in West Germany:

V East Germany 0-2
V West Germany 0-3
V Chile 0-0

Australia's 1974 World Cup Travelling Squad:

Captain: Peter Wilson-sweeper
Goalkeepers: Jack Reilly, Allan Maher, Jimmy Milisavljevic.
Defenders: Doug Utjesenovic, Manfred Schaefer, Johnny Watkiss , Col Curran, Ivo Rudic, Harry Williams.
Midfielders: Johnny Warren, Jimmy MacKay, Ray Richards, Jimmy Rooney, Ernie Campbell, Dave Harding.
Strikers: Adrian Alston, Atti Abonyi, Branko Buljevic, Garry Manuel, Max Tolson, Peter Ollerton.
Doctor: Brian Corrigan.
Physiotherapist: Peter Van Ryn.
Team Manager: John Barclay (Tasmania)
Coach: Rale Rasic.
Assistant Coach: Les Scheinflug.

HAVE A SOCCER HOLIDAY IN FIJI

Calling All Soccer Teams — End of Season Trip?

By JOHN ECONOMOS

The Third Fijian Soccer Masters kicks off in Suva on October 19 and Sydney sports-travel specialists, Sportswell Tours, still have some limited vacancies for any last minute squads wishing to enter.

Both Men's and Women's teams from across Australia may enter, but you must act quickly, (this week in fact), to fill in limited berths still available to compete in this fabulous, tropical Soccer holiday competition.

Club secretaries, team managers and coaches must act fast as it is the very last chance to enter their respective squads in this the Third Fijian Soccer Masters.

So pack up your boots, bikinis, swimmers, sun block and sunnies and get ready for a real Soccer holiday in downtown Suva in Fiji.

The inaugural "Fijian Soccer Masters" was played in 1994 in Nadi at the Prince Charles Stadium, and was won by the dazzling and highly skilled squad from Melbourne, the 'Brazilian Old Boys'.

Sports travel consultant, Nikki Lonergan from Sportswell Tours, stated this week that "We have opened up the Masters to include a Women's section. Registrations for all Australian teams wishing to travel in October must close this Friday.

"Interested club secretaries and team managers should urgently contact me at Sportswell Tours in Sydney early this week on 02-9262 2499 for their colourful Soccer brochure setting out all costings and details.

"We've had enquiries already from Women's teams including Auburn-Granville and the Sydney Amateur League.

"This year's 'Fijian Masters' will be played in Suva at Fiji's National Stadium and all Aussie teams will be based at the Travelodge Motel in Suva during the Tournament.

"Prior to departing Fiji, the Australian teams will spend a few days relaxing at the plush and luxurious Warwick Resort on the Coral Coast," ended Nikki.

Any individual players without a team — and still wishing to go — may still do so and will be included in a 'pool team'.

The ABSW 1994 squad that competed in the Fijian Masters.

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STEVE MAXWELL AND THE FOX TROT

Steve Maxwell has had a long and illustrious career in the game. 'Maxie' is one of the all time favourites and greats of the game in Australia.

At the age of seven, Steve played his first match for Warradale Primary school, and hasn't looked back since. Birkalla Rovers (West Torrens Birkalla) as they were known in the 1970s was Maxie's first club.

His senior debut with the "Birks" was in 1980 as a precocious 15 year old, however, his career really kicked off in 1983. Adelaide City's coach, Bobby Ferguson, called him up for his debut in the National League against Canberra at Hindmarsh Stadium.

In his initial appearance, at 18 years of age, he scored two goals for the Zebras in a 2-2 draw — his second goal being a cheeky back heel. Instant headlines were drawn to Maxwell. It was the young Adelaide City side of 1983 which was the genesis of the Zebras' winning national success with their first championship in 1986.

As he recalls, "The second leg of the Grand Final in Sydney against Olympic was one of the highlights of my career. We won the league 3-2 on aggregate." Modestly, Maxwell modestly doesn't mention the fact that in the Grand Final it was he who won a converted penalty to even the tie. He then scored the second goal to put the Zebras in front, but that's Maxie for you, always saying he was only part of a great side.

In 1986 Frank Arok called him up for the Socceroos against Czechoslovakia at Hindmarsh for his international debut.

In 1994 Steve Maxwell had to prematurely retire from the national league because of recurring knee injuries. Did it deter him from playing?...No way!

In 1995 he continued for Port Lion Pirates in the South Australia Premier League and today represents Cumberland Foxes. "What keeps me going is the people you meet through playing Soccer and the will to win the league with the Foxes. I'm still very much motivated."

The Foxes this year have come of age and they have won many fans with their endeavour, Maxie observing that "There are guys here who have been with the club for over 20 years, it's such a fantastic club. When you see this type of loyalty to a club it makes me want to go out there and succeed."

Steve Maxwell is quietly confident of success with the Foxes. There are some experienced campaigners with the team and that has certainly helped the cause. "In the game of Soccer it's important that the youngsters listen to their coaches and in fact anybody who can give them positive advice. It's then up to the individual to make up their own mind to take in what is good or not good for them."

How long will Steve Maxwell go on playing? "As long as my body can take it and each match that I play these days is very important to me. Eventually I would like to try my hand at coaching in the Premier League or the State League, we'll just see how it goes. It's a lot harder to coach I think, with playing, there are eleven opportunities to fill out a side ... with coaching only one."

Maxie has been an inspiration to all Soccer loving fans and his contribution to the game will be long remembered. He hopes that one day Australian Soccer will be rich enough to keep the best players right here. "Perhaps we need to establish an Oceania League with New Zealand and Asian teams so we could have a Super league which will attract an audience of billions which will in turn attract lucrative sponsors."

But for now he is concentrating on the "Fox" trot right into the Premier League!

ST★R PROFILE
Steve Maxwell

Born: 17/1/1965, North Adelaide.
Clubs: WT Birkalla (1976-1982), Adelaide City (1983-1986), Marconi (1987), Adelaide City (1988-1994), Port Lion (1995-1996), Cumberland (1997-?).
Honours: Socceroos (11 caps, 1 goal), South Australia (29 caps), South Australian Junior State Sides.
Favourite Position: Striker.
Most Memorable Match: Debut for Australia v Czechoslovakia and the 1986 Grand Final with Adelaide City.
Most Memorable Goal Seen Scored: Marco Van Basten (Holland), European Championship Final, Holland v USSR. "Van Basten's volley was a cracker."
Biggest Influence on career: Zoran Matic.

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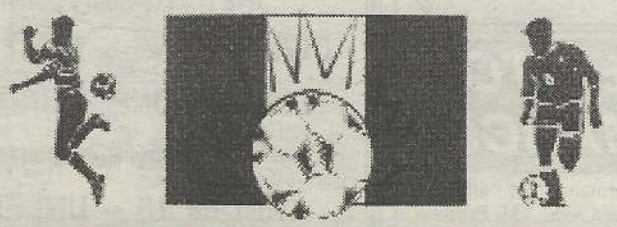

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Fish out of water

Dear Sir,

I come from a South American country where Futbol (Soccer) is almost regarded as a religion. So you may imagine how frustrated and bored I do feel each time I turn on the TV to watch a bit of Soccer.

All I see is a bunch of guys chasing an egg-shaped ball that you never know where is going to bounce? Despite the wide TV coverage, very often the stadium looks almost empty. At least that is a consolation for a Soccer fan like me. The world's most popular sport is still Futbol whether the commercial TV channels like it or not.

I wonder which TV channel will be broadcasting 'live' France 1998 World Cup qualifier between Chile v Argentina on 10 September 1997? Probably none!

I became aware of this match thanks to ABSW World Cup update (Vol 18, No. 837). Can anyone please suggest to me where can I watch South American Soccer without leaving this country?

Alex Monardes,
Oakleigh, VIC.

MEDIA ON MARS?

Dear Sir,

Thanks ABSW for the article by Henry Wizgier in the August 5 edition. He appears to be an intelligent, insightful fan of the game, and I look forward to his future contributions.

I recently wrote a letter to ABSW concerning the treatment of Soccer by the mainstream media, and some of Henry's points seem to support the basic implications of my arguments. Until I read his article, I was led to believe (by our well informed media) that Poms actually follow rugby and cricket seriously. No wonder the Poms think we're stupid, making such a big fuss over sports they don't really care about! It appears the media live on another plant, away from the real world. This planet is called Hicksville!

Channel 9 in Melbourne did it again a couple of Sundays ago on National Nine News. Their sports report included a brawl in an American Soccer match, which is unbelievable considering they refuse to show the Socceroos. Really, who would have been interested in viewing this rubbish?

Due to the amount of games played around the world, there are bound to be incidents, but the media work diligently to highlight them. If AFL or rugby were the world's most popular sport, there would be even more violence than Soccer, considering the nature of these sports. Are they trying to justify their own support of hick sports by belittling Soccer?

The success of the recent Bledisloe Cup match at the MCG makes me think that a Soccer spectacular would also succeed. If Mr Kennett can secure the Brazilian Soccer team to play the Socceroos at the MCG, then I'm sure that 100,000 people would come along to actually witness some skills on display, unlike rugby union.

Wait a minute, I'm being silly. As if the media would support this! C'mon to all those in the media, just stop being small minded and face the fact that Soccer is the most popular participation sport in Australia. The rest of the country will be proud of the Socceroos if they qualify for France '98, receiving world attention.

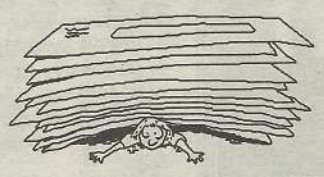
G Owen,
Highton, VIC.

Editor's note: It is not only Soccer which suffers. When Cathy Freeman won the 400 metres gold at the World Championships recently, one of the Adelaide commercials had her fourth. This fabulous achievement followed a Port Adelaide story, an Adelaide Crows piece and some general news on their code!

"Our new star striker said he wouldn't sign unless he was allowed to have his own dressing table'"

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
PO BOX 155,
MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9550-9332

Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

Olyroos fine ambassadors

Dear Sir,

Last week our town was privileged to host a five day visit by the Olyroos. What wonderful ambassadors for the game these young men are.

In all dealings with the public they were pleasant and obliging. They seem to possess very developed interpersonal skills, with Ivan Zelic displaying some great leadership qualities.

It would seem that the Olyroos could teach players of other sports how to treat members of the public, in particular, the young players of the future for their respective sports.

Too often sports players tend to ignore kids who play the same sport as them: not the Olyroos. They gave plenty of attention to any kids who wanted autographs, photos or just to ask questions.

In a constant display of what would once have been considered to be just good manners, or common courtesy, the Olyroos made many kids feel that they were important to the team.

Living in what is considered to be a country area, we do not have much access to top-level football. Our options are limited to pilgrimages to Brisbane to view the Strikers at a home game — which incidentally happen to be great value and entertainment.

Not only are we under the veil of the 'tyranny of distance', but we also happen to be residents in an area that would approximate the size of Victoria, which the Government has deemed will remain a black hole with no SBS for another two years.

We had no viewing of the Socceroos' World Cup Qualifiers, and for some of those games, the television news services did not even bother to display their usual ten seconds of coverage. The qualifiers were either ignored, or the score was displayed only.

Occasionally, we were lucky enough to see 10-15 seconds footage of the qualifiers during the sports section of a television news programme. Mark Bosnich's goal fell into this second category.

The Olyroo visit and the two games they played in our town may just be the closest thing many of us will see of an Australian Olympic team.

I count us very lucky that the Olyroos included our town on their tour. Some of us may be able to get to Brisbane to view whatever games are played at Suncorp Stadium for the 2000 Games, but many will not — and based on past performances — there are no prizes for guessing how much of those will be televised by the commercial stations.

Wouldn't it be nice if David Hill did follow the rumour of the Socceroos November qualifier being played at Suncorp Stadium. Surely Melbourne and Sydney have hosted more than their fair share of these events?

It must be about time to give another city, its residents plus those from the surrounding country areas the opportunity to see the Socceroos playing live.

If football fans were prepared to travel from just about anywhere within the State to see the Strikers host the Grand Final, then the possibility of seeing a national team play should surely evoke a similar response.

J Munday-Barber,
Rockhampton, QLD.

BLOOD ANALYSIS KEY TO IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

Elite athletes at the Australian Institute of Sport are utilising state-of-the-art technology to monitor the formation and function of blood to enhance their training and performance.

A haematology analyser known as H•3, developed by world leading chemical and pharmaceutical company, Bayer — is being used by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) to analyse blood and help ensure athletes compete at their maximum capability.

The analysis of blood provides vital information about the general health and iron status of athletes, enabling better management of training loads and maintenance of maximum performance by coaches, physiologists and athletes.

"Routine blood monitoring allows coaches and athletes to make the most of training sessions and contributes to the performance and overall well-being of the elite athlete," said AIS Laboratory Manager, Mr Robin Parisotto.

"The H•3 has allowed a quantum leap in assessing and detecting changes in the iron levels and blood of elite athletes which is fundamental to sporting success," he said.

"Rather than detecting iron depletion/deficiency after it has occurred, we can now detect iron depletion — common in female athletes — at a much earlier stage than was previously possible. This means we can intervene with iron supplementation when it is most required.

"Bayer's blood analyser also enables us to detect infections that are often unbeknown to the athlete but which can impact on their performance.

"A number of Australian athletes who competed at the Atlanta Olympics had their blood tested extensively. We believe this played at least a small part in their success."

High profile AIS athletes currently using the Bayer H•3 in training include those in rowing, cycling, swimming and athletics.

"We expect the findings from a number of research studies (including altitude training studies) on the H•3 will further enhance the performance of athletes Australia wide, " Mr Parisotto said.

"The H•3 will contribute to a comprehensive haematology blood testing service for Australian athletes leading up to and beyond the Sydney 2000 Olympics, " he said.

The Australian Institute of Sport will also offer a blood analysis service to overseas athletes training and acclimatising in Australia leading up to the 2000 Games.

Praise home-grown talent

Dear Sir,

As a long time reader of ABSW I must tell you that Henry Wizgier's "Letter From England" was most succinct and to the point as an ex-British Professional and Socceroo I am glad that at last someone else has come out and put the record straight.

Our homegrown talent should be praised for their achievements, not lambasted in an ad made for someone's financial gain.

In the Victorian State League in 1963 there was one Australian born player in the competition. In the 1965 Australian team that played a 2-2 draw with Chelsea at the Sydney Showground there was also only one Australian born player in the team.

In 1997 we now have a national team with only one non-Australian born player. We have upwards of 100 players plying their trade in Europe. Our Under/17-20 and Olyroos in the past 20 years have had a wonderful record.

One does not have to draw comparisons to the game in Britain — it is self evident how the game is going there.

Stop knocking the game here and let's take some pride in our achievements.

Archie Blue,
Manly, NSW.

Matildas' Media Snub . . .

Dear Sir,

Being a keen fan of women's sport, particularly since I saw the US women's soccer team play in the Olympics last year, I have become interested in how our national Soccer team, the Matildas, have been doing.

Fortunately, I have been able to follow their successes on their current European tour by reading ABSW, so thanks for covering the tour, it is much appreciated. But what about the rest of the media?

As usual, women's soccer has been ignored by the media, despite us beating the highly rated Hungary and Sweden, plus a creditable draw with the Dutch. Players like Lismore's Lisa Casagrande, and the skilful Julie Murray, are brilliant players and very marketable.

Australia are currently unbeaten on this tour but you would not know watching sports reports. I mean who cares if some aussie rules player is at the tribunal!

C'mon Australia, let's get behind our women's team, the Matildas. They deserve our support — and who knows — they may even win a medal at the World Cup and 2000 Olympics. But everyone will be interested in them then, won't they.

Andrew Carr
Mornington, VIC.

Mt Pritchard Federation Soccer Club

COACHES FOR 1998

EXPERIENCED COACHES HOLDING A CURRENT LEVEL 2 COACHING CERTIFICATE OR HIGHER ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

DIVISION ONE – FIRST GRADE
DIVISION ONE – UNDER 18
Youth League
UNDER 16 – UNDER 15
UNDER 14 – UNDER 13

Please apply in writing by 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1997 to:

THE SECRETARY
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PO BOX 157 GREENACRE NSW 2190

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Rising Stars

Young goalie with experience

By BOB BROOKS

If there's an Ericsson Cup side seeking a young goalkeeper maybe a trip to Enfield Falcons in the First Division of South Australia could be rewarding.

Surprisingly, at the age of 22, Edward Scalzi has had experience at a variety of levels in Italy. After representing his home State, he left Adelaide to try his luck in the country of supreme style.

During his five and a half years in the Soccer mad country he was called to his military service. He was posted to the Athletic Corps in Naples. This was at the request of then Serie A club Napoli.

Unfortunately the southern Italy based club ran into their well documented financial troubles about this time and Scalzi was freed. He attempted to make the grade with a Serie C1 club and even turned down a trial with AC Milan!

The pull of Australia became too strong at the end of '96, so he packed his bags and headed home. It wasn't long before a successful trial was held at Marconi but while keeping fit with friends Ross Aloisi and Cyril Ndongo he hurt himself. The ligament damage kept him off the field for eight weeks.

When he first arrived in Italy he found a spot with third Division Siena. Napoli bought him as their third choice and most junior player.

The Italian daily 'Corriere Dello Sport' had high praise for the Aussie keeper when he made his first team debut against Lazio in the Italian Cup just two years ago.

He is now a free agent, who is ready for the Australian big time.

Edward Scalzi (pictured right): Could he be a ready made replacement for some of Australia's overseas talents?

THAT GIRL AGAIN!

Katrina Staniforth stamped her authority on the pre-Quarter-final clash of the Topper Bill Turner Cup to once again give clear indication of her undoubted potential.

Her team, Kaleen High School from the ACT, proved too strong for the Western NSW champions, James Sheehan Catholic College, Orange.

Coach John Mealings JSCC side met a Kaleen team that was firing on all cylinders and one that will take a lot of stopping. (One team that might be up to the task is Keira Technology High from the South Coast, who travelled to Canberra for the quarter-final showdown).

Stephen Kemp had a wonderful day, notching a hat-trick for the home side and picking up the three points offered towards the 'Star Players Awards. Katrina Staniforth and Armied Shadmaan also picked up points.

It must be understood that James Sheehan College did not play badly at all, Linos Sainzo showing excellent form along with Jarrod Westgeest with Neill Smith following closely behind.

The best feature of these games in the ACT is that Area Manager Chris Conti does not leave the selection of 'Star Players' to one person but to a panel of high profile football related people and for this particular match, Steve Doszpot (President ACTSF), Chris Tanzey (ACT Academy), George Dobbins (ASRF, ACT), Steve O'Connor (AIS) and Jimmy Hayes (ACTSF Director of Coaching) made the selections..

Kaleen High 4 (Kemp 3, Armied), JSC, Orange 0 (played at Giralang Playing Field, ACT).

Referee: Mr K Kesby.

KEIRA WIN DESPITE INJURIES

Keira Technology High, from Wollongong, had two players injured early in their pre-Quarter-final clash with Wade High, Griffiths, but were able to overcome these set backs as they defeated a powerful Riverina squad by a solitary goal.

The bigger players of Wade High dominated the first-half but couldn't capitalise on their superiority in the air. They failed to turn it into goals and the Keira coach, Alan Gardner, must have breathed a huge sigh of relief when the half-time whistle blew with a Nil all scoreline.

The game became far more even in the second-half with both 'keepers, Joshua Sak (Keira) and Michael Johns (Wade), keeping the match alive with some top drawer saves.

A quick interchange of passes by the Keira midfielders proved the undoing of a stubborn Wade side in the 60th minute. The ball fell invitingly for Nick Bosinovski to tuck away, after the initial shot was blocked, for the only score of the match.

Shane Lockhart stood out alongside Nick Bosinovski and Antonio D'Acunto for the Keira side while Wade were well served by Gavin Zuccato, Stephan Ceccato and Mark Calabria on the day.

The clash between Keira and ACT champions Kaleen should be a beauty and was scheduled to take place in Canberra on the afternoon of Thursday, August 14.

Keira Technology High 1 (Bosinovski), Wade High 0 (played at Judy Masters Oval, Balgownie).

Referee: Mr Dion Pinilla

FAVOURITES UP ... JUST

Favourites to take out this years Topper Bill Turner Cup, Westfields Sports High, made heavy going of it against Warners Bay. The home side made Westfield's work very hard and the visiting team only managed to claim the winning goal late in the second-half.

There is no question that Westfields were the better side on the day but sterling defence by the 'Bay was the telling factor for much of the match with their 'keeper, Joshua Dezius, outstanding between the sticks and subsequently named as their 'Man of the Match'.

In a rare moment, the unguarded Westfields striker, Mark Lancaster, notched the winning goal and team mate Nathaniel George also had a top game. They were ably supported by Christian Cevennini and Ismael Arrarte.

For Warners Bay, both Adam Parker and David Slee had strong games.

Westfield's Sports High 1 (Lancaster), Warners Bay 0 (played at Valentine-Eleebana Sports Complex). ***Referee:*** Mr Neville Hill.

Action from the Finals of the 1996 Bill Turner Cup.

FINALS DATE AND VENUE CHANGED

Due to unforeseen circumstances the dates and venues for the semi-finals and Final of the Topper Bill Turner Cup, have had to be changed.

The surface at Topper Stadium is being re-habilitated to ensure that it is in perfect condition for the Ericsson Cup kick off. There has been an abnormally wet winter, which combined with Hunter Mariners co-use of the facility, has caused considerable damage.

Successful negotiations have taken place with Edgeworth Eagles for the use of their ground. Originally this was to be the second Tuesday and Wednesday in September. However the ground is being used for a NSW Waratah Cup game on that same Wednesday evening.

The Under 15 schools tournament will have the two Semi Finals on Monday September 8. Kick off for the first game is 6 pm. The second follows at 7.30pm.

The Final of the Topper Bill Turner Cup is on Tuesday September 9 at Edgeworth Eagles ground. Kick off is 7.30 pm.

The play off for third and fourth place precedes the Final at 6 pm.

KADINA STUN THE FANS

Kadina High, from Goonellabah near Lismore, stunned the home fans with a convincing and comprehensive victory away to Broadmeadow when advancing into the Topper Bill Turner Cup quarter-finals.

The visiting Kadina team scored two goals in each half without reply but it could all have been so different. Broadmeadow had a chance as early as the fourth minute when the Kadina 'keeper, Nick Harris, got in a tangle with a defender and lost the ball. Luckily, for the visitors, a stab-shot saw the ball shave the outside of the upright before going out of play for a goal-kick.

With a 'Campbell' playing in each side, both having a big say during the entertaining but often tough match, it was Adam Campbell who had scored the only goal of the game for Broadmeadow against Forster High in the previous round while Kadina's Jordy Campbell proved a tower of strength against Duval of Armidale in their previous fixture. Both featured in the 'Star Player Awards' points.

The ability to find the net after good lead up work was to win the day for Kadina, who have already had two long 'away' trips, and will now host Westfield's Sports High in the quarter-finals.

Adam Hughes was the star performer for Kadina with Jordy Campbell and Clint Willoughby also supporting well. The consistent Adam Skelly stood out for Broadmeadow, who also had Adam Campbell and Brad Lawless putting in tireless performances.

Kadina 4 (Campbell 2, Hughes, Willoughby), Broadmeadow 0 (played at Broadmeadow).

Referee: Mr Matt Ross.

ST. GEORGE SAINTS

COACHES SENIOR & YOUTH LEAGUE WANTED FOR 1998 BY St George Saints

This NSW Super League club invites expressions of interest from prospective coaches for:

U/13, U/14, U/15, U/16 Youth League
Goalkeeper coach for U/13-U/16
Minimum for these positions Level 2

Firsts, U/21, U/18
Goalkeeper Coach for Firsts – U/18
Minimum qualification Level 3

Applications and resumes by
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5 to:

THE SECRETARY, ST GEORGE SAINTS SOCCER CLUB, PO BOX 395 BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS NSW 2216

REPRESENTATIVE COACHES FOR THE 1998 SEASON

SENIOR COACHING PANEL

1. Association Development Coach
2. Senior Youth League Coach (Coaching Coordinator)
3. Under 13-16 Youth League Coaches
4. Under 16 Ladies Representative Team coach
5. All Age Ladies Representative Team Coach
6. Under 12 Junior League Coach
7. Under 11 Junior League Coach

Applications for all positions close on Monday September 15, 1997. (Minimum Level 3 qualification required for positions 1 & 2). Level 2 preferred for positions 3 to 7) Practical assessment sessions may be required.

Remuneration will be by way of attractive base with incentive based on results

Post all applications with detailed resume to:–

THE SECRETARY,
Granville & District Soccer Football Association
PO Box 3493 Parramatta NSW 2150

NSW Soccer Federation

SUPER LEAGUE

MINOR SEMI FINAL

	1st	U/21	U/18
L'hardt Tigers v Bl'town City Demons	2-1	-	-
Bl'town City Demons v St George S'ts	-	0-1	-
Cant M'kville Berries v Macarthur Rams	-	-	1-2

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

P'matta Eagles v Bonnyrigg Wh Eagles	4-1	-	-
Parramatta Eagles v Macarthur Rams	-	2-1	-
P'amatta Eagles v Bl'ktown C Demons	-	-	2-0

DIVISION ONE

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

	1st	U/21	U/18
H'tville City Minotaurs v Eastern Subs	0-1	-	-
Hurstville City Minotuars v Ryde City	-	0-1	-
Ryde City v Mt Pritchard	-	-	4-1

MINOR SEMI FINAL

Ryde City v Stanmore Hawks	2-3	-	-
Hills United v Bathurst '75	-	1-0	-
Hills United v Rockdale City Suns	-	-	1-4

DIVISION TWO

GRAND FINAL

	1st	U/21	U/18
AC United v University of NSW	1-0 AET	-	-
Sydney District v Parramatta City	-	3-1	-
Moorebank Sports v Mt Druitt T Ran	-	-	1-0

DIVISION THREE

ROUND 22

	1st	2nd
Granville Greenisland v Arncliffe Scots	3-1	0-3
Colo Colo v Prospect United	4-1	0-4
White City v Glebe Wanderers	2-2	1-2
Trasandinos v Hakoah	4-0	5-0
Hawkesbury City v The Wanderers	1-1	1-4
Prairiewood United v St Johns Park	0-3	0-3
Hakoah v Glebe Wanderers	1-2	0-2
St Johns Park v The Wanderers	0-8	-

FIRST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glebe Wanderers	22	18	4	0	56	15	58
Arncliffe Scots	22	13	3	6	52	30	42
Colo Colo	22	12	5	5	52	34	41
The Wanderers	22	12	3	7	48	35	39
Granville Greenisland	22	12	3	7	54	44	39
Prospect United	22	10	4	8	48	36	34
White City	22	8	3	11	62	49	27
Hakoah	22	7	5	10	40	35	26
Trasandinos	22	7	5	10	30	40	26
Hawkesbury City	22	6	5	11	48	45	23
St Johns Park	22	3	3	16	29	79	12
Prairiewood United	22	2	1	19	22	99	7

DIVISION FOUR

ROUND 24

	1st	2nd
Balmain v Fraser Park	1-7	3-5
Maroubra United v Sydney University	-	3-0
Lithgow Workmen v Earlwood Hermes	2-2	2-1
Marrickville v United Eagles	2-1	1-1
CSI Schofields v Springwood	3-1	3-1
St Josephs v Sydney University	0-3	0-3
Angels Liverpool v Mascot Kings	4-2	3-2
Fairfield Kings v Maroubra United	1-11	0-3
Sydney University v United Eagles	P/P	1-1
Balmain v Marrickville	1-2	0-1
Maroubra United v Fraser Park	3-0	-

FIRST

Maroubra United 60, Fraser Park 54, Sydney University 52, Marrickville 49, CSI Schofields 47, Earlwood Hermes 40, Mascot Kings 34, St Josephs 27, United Eagles 27, Balmain 24, Lithgow Workmen 23, Springwood 22, Angels Liverpool United 8, Fairfield Kings 3.

DIVISION FIVE

ROUND 24

	1st	2nd
Nepean Districts v AVA United	2-0	6-0
Canterbury Bullet v Blacktown Premier	3-1	3-3
Holy Cross v Bossy	2-0	2-1
Sporting SCC v Camden Tigers	2-3	1-1
Auburn Star v Kosciusko	0-3	1-3
Racing v Homenetmen	1-1	1-2
AC Sydney v Fairfield Eagles	0-6	2-0
Bossy v Sporting SCC	1-0	-

FIRST

Camden Tigers 59, Holy Cross College 55, Nepean District 50, Bossy 45, Blacktown Premier 36, Fairfield Eagles 34, AC Sydney 33, Canterbury Bullets 31, Homenetmen 30, Kosciusko 28, Racing 27, Sporting SCC 19, Auburn Star 17, AVA United 8.

WOMENS DIVISION ONE

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

	1st	2nd
NSW Institute/Academy v Sydney United	2-0	-
NSW Institute/Academy v Sutherland Shire	1-1 aet 3-4 pen	

MINOR SEMI FINAL

Marconi v NNSW Institute/Academy	1-1 aet 3-2 pens	
Sydney United v Marconi	-	2-0

WOMENS DIVISION TWO

MINOR SEMI FINAL

	1st	2nd
St George v Shoalhaven Association	0-3	
Bathurst '75 v Roselands	-	3-2 aet

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 25

	G/13	G/14	G/15	G/16
B'ktown City v Warringah Dolphins	0-0	1-0	0-2	1-0
Gladesville Hornsby v Central Coast	3-0	3-2	2-1	0-0
Marconi Fairfield v Wollongong City	1-3	2-5	1-0	0-2
Sutherland Shire v Southern Dists	1-1	4-0	1-2	1-3
Illawarra Lions v Macarthur Rams	1-0	3-1	1-1	3-0
Adamstown Rosebud v Sydney Utd	1-0	1-0	1-0	1-3
Parramatta Eagles v Syd Olympic	1-2	1-0	2-3	0-1
Gl'sville Hornsby v Illawarra Lions	5-1	0-1	7-0	5-1

GRADE 13
Sutherland Sharks 61, Sydney Olympic 60, Wollongong City 49, Gladesville Hornsby 47, Southern Districts 44, Macarthur Rams 36, Marconi Fairfield 35, Blacktown City 34, Adamstown Rosebud 34, Parramatta Eagles 31, Warringah Dolphins 28, Central Coast 14, Sydney United 12, Illawarra Lions 9.

GRADE 14
Sydney Olympic 51, Parramatta Eagles 49, Sydney United 43, Blacktown City 43, Gladesville Hornsby 42, Warringah Dolphins 37, Central Coast 36, Adamstown Rosebud 36, Marconi Fairfield 35, Illawarra Lions 33, Sutherland Sharks 21, Macarthur Rams 21, Wollongong City 16, Southern Districts 15.

GRADE 15
Blacktown City 56, Sydney Olympic 53, Marconi Fairfield 52, Parramatta Eagles 50, Southern Districts 48, Macarthur Rams 41, Warringah Dolphins 36, Gladesville Hornsby 35, Central Coast 35, Wollongong City 34, Adamstown Rosebud 22, Sydney United 20, Illawarra Lions 7, Sutherland Sharks 7.

GRADE 16
Parramatta Eagles 72, Sydney Olympic 52, Blacktown City 51, Gladesville Hornsby 48, Wollongong City 41, Southern Districts 36, Sydney United 32, Marconi Fairfield 31, Adamstown Rosebud 30, Warringah Dolphins 26, Illawarra Lions 18, Central Coast 18, Macarthur Rams 17, Sutherland Sharks 16.

DIVISION ONE

ROUND 25

	G/13	G/14	G/15	G/16
AC United v Southern Branch	1-1	4-0	5-1	3-5
B'kstown Assoc' v Penrith Panthers	1-0	1-0	0-4	2-4
CSI Schofields v B'nyrigg Wh'Eagles	1-1	2-0	4-0	1-1
Eastern Suburbs v St George	0-3	5-1	1-0	0-0
Nepean Assoc v Ku-ring-gai Assoc	0-2	1-0	0-1	5-1
Granville Assoc v Blacktown Associ	0-8	1-5	0-10	2-0
R'kdale City Suns v L'hardt Tigers	0-3	1-2	P/P	P/P

GRADE 13
Leichhardt Tigers 63, St George 50, Blacktown Association 48, Bankstown Association 44, Eastern Suburbs 39, Penrith Panthers 35, Nepean Association 33, Ku-ring-gai Association 32, Southern Branch 30, Bonnyrigg WE 30, AC United 24, CSI Schofields 19, Rockdale City Suns 18, Granville Association 14.

GRADE 14
AC United 63, Leichhardt Tigers 62, St George 60, Eastern Suburbs 57, Blacktown Association 49, Nepean Association 44, CSI Schofields 33, Rockdale City Suns 31, Bankstown Association 30, Bonnyrigg WE 28, Penrith Panthers 17, Ku-ring-gai Association 12, Southern Branch 9, Granville Association 9.

GRADE 15
Penrith Panthers 57, AC United 53, Bankstown Association 50, Leichhardt Tigers 49, St George 47, Blacktown Association 46, Eastern Suburbs 43, CSI Schofields 41, Southern Branch 30, Rockdale City Suns 25, Bonnyrigg WE 18, Ku-ring-gai Association 18, Nepean Association 16, Granville Association 4.

GRADE 16
Southern Branch 64, CSI Schofields 54, Eastern Suburbs 45, Penrith Panthers 45, Rockdale City Suns 44, Leichhardt Tigers 44, Bankstown Association 39, Blacktown Association 32, Bonnyrigg WE 31, St George 26, AC United 24, Nepean Association 19, Granville Association 17, Ku-ring-gai Association 5.

DIVISION TWO

ROUND 22

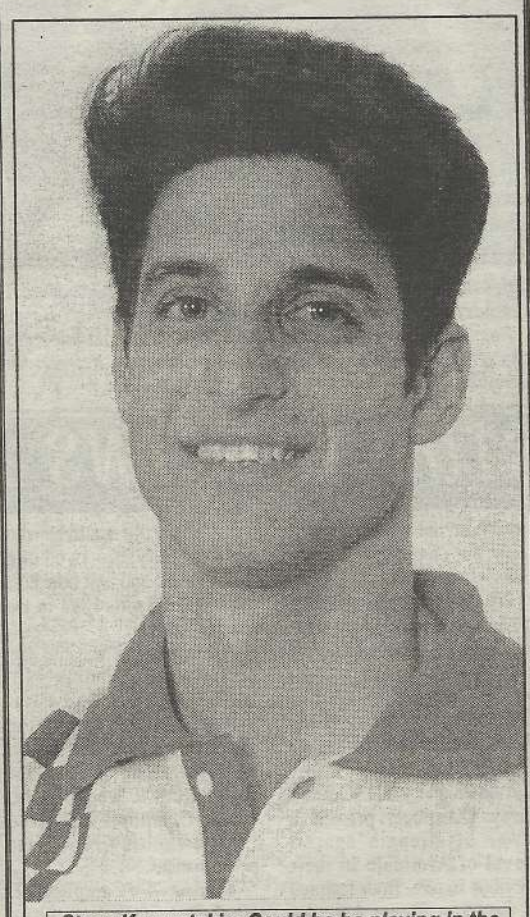
Stanmore Hawks v H'kesbury City	1-0	2-0	3-0	4-1
St Johns Park v Hills United	2-3	2-3	1-2	2-0
Springwood v Macquarie Sports	1-1	1-1	1-3	2-2
Ryde City v Mt Druitt Town Rang	2-1	1-0	2-0	1-0
Parramatta City v Mt Pritchard	1-1	1-1	1-4	1-2

GRADE 13
Canterbury Association 58, Ryde City 34, Parramatta City 34, Stanmore Hawks 34, Mt Pritchard 31, Hawkesbury City 28, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 27, Hills United 21, Macquarie Sports 19, St Johns Park 10, Springwood 9.

GRADE 14
Stanmore Hawks 44, Ryde City 42, Hills United 38, Canterbury Association 34, Hawkesbury City 32, Macquarie Sports 30, Mt Prichard 25, St Johns Park 20, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 20, Springwood 16, Parramatta City 7.

GRADE 15
Hills United 42, Ryde City 37, Parramatta City 36, Stanmore Hawks 35, Mt Pritchard 34, St Johns Park 32, Canterbury Association 31, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 25, Springwood 18, Hawkesbury City 11, Macquarie Sports 10.

GRADE 16
Ryde City 48, Canterbury Association 46, Mt Pritchard 42, Stanmore Hawks 41, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 32, Hawkesbury City 28, Parramatta City 27, Macquarie Sports 15, St Johns Park 14, Hills United 11, Springwood 3.



Steve Karavatakis: Could he be playing in the Ericsson Cup next season?

TOP OF THE TABLE

NSW Soccer Federation

MINOR PREMIERS DOWN BUT NOT OUT

By PAUL GOODWIN

EASTERN SUBURBS 1 HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS 0

Easts beat Minotaurs 1-0 in the NSWSF Division One Major Semi Final at a windy Rockdale on Saturday.

The winner came from Mick Daniels, the Liverpool born all rounder, who has won praise all year for his skilful reading of the game, and despite a calf injury picked up the previous week, made another vital contribution.

Having said that, Daniel's side could have and should have been a goal down inside three minutes when Vadim Mikoutsky impeded diminutive Minotaurs' striker Tony Mihaljevic inside the box and referee Steve Gillespie awarded a penalty.

The normally reliable Louis Dounis stroked his spot kick too softly in the stiff breeze, the ball hitting the post. Easts defended grimly for much of the rest of the first half with giant goalie Les Bihari frequently called into action.

He did well to get to a fierce 22 metre shot by George Kalogeras in the 16th minute, pushing the ball out to Mihaljevic who steered the ball wide of the same left post from close range with no defender in sight.

Dario Fernandez also tested Bihari with a low shot in the 18th, while at the other end Kevin Watson was wide with a volley after a lovely diagonal ball from Gerry Gomez, who also figured in a move which almost got Eastern Suburbs on the scoresheet in the 40th as his byline cross beat the keeper, and Craig Sharpley and Steve Lawrence, who both failed to connect with headers.

Grant Lee lifted the Easts performance when he replaced the injured Watson – and it was from a ball supplied by Daniels – that Lee hit the underside of the bar in the 47th minute.

Gennadi Spivac was always a danger on the flank and got the ball back from the byline to the waiting Daniels around the penalty spot, with Daniels coolly slotting home with a low finish to seal the match in the 78th minute.

On Monday and Tuesday Daniels could not even walk and did not train before the game, yet he still lasted the full ninety minutes.

That is more than can be said for Gennadi Spivac who was shown a second yellow card and will miss the Grand Final.

Minotaurs rallied late, with Dounis hitting the bar and Easts' midfielder Steve McCombe causing palpitations on the bench when an attempted clearance flew off his boot and narrowly over Bihari's bar right near the end.

It was no classic, but in the awkward conditions, a typical finals contest, and one Easts will be very happy about, particularly by the contribution of the indefatigable Micky Daniels.

MINOR SEMI-FINAL – FIRST GRADE

STANMORE HAWKS 3 RYDE CITY GUNNERS 2

The Hawks came from two goals down to beat Ryde City at Nineveh Field on Sunday and thoroughly deserved the 2-3 win, a victory chiefly engineered by captain Eddie Briscoe.

Ryde seemed to have the tactics just right in the swirling wind by playing a direct style inside their opponents' half of the field and were two goals up inside eleven minutes.

In the 2nd minute, Stanmore goalie Paul Kyprianou appeared ill at ease in the blustery conditions, failing to get anywhere near a long lob from Paul Watkins.

Watkins executed an almost identical lofted through ball for Tim Gledhill three minutes later and this time the Ryde player beat the Stanmore keeper to the ball by clipping it over his head and into an empty net.

After 7 minutes Con Anagnostopoulos drilled the ball into the Ryde side netting under pressure from defenders after a well directed free kick.

John McKie put Gledhill in behind the Hawks' defence in the 11th minute and the young striker drove his shot beyond Kyprianou and into the bottom right corner of the net to make it two.

Stanmore pulled a goal back in the 21st minute from the penalty spot with Eddie Briscoe beating Sam Krslovic with ease, thanks to a strong, low shot.

The spot kick had been awarded after Anagnostopoulos had been obstructed by two Ryde defenders, Paul Watkins and Andy Stratford, as he raced into the box from a precision pass from the busy Paul Andricopoulos.

Stanmore began to figure in everything for the remainder of the first half, with Krslovic and the Gunners' defence fully stretched.

Briscoe, from a deep position, was always in the action, as was Jason Oldridge who lay even deeper to make Stanmore's control of the midfield almost complete.

Briscoe clipped one over the bar and the energetic Michael Lardis had a shot pushed onto the post and then claimed by the keeper in the closing stages of the half.

Oldridge came forward to drill one which the keeper was forced to punch clear, while Ryde's only contribution was a good cross from Watkins which eluded the head of Matthew Borg by a whisker as he reached the goalmouth a split second too late.

Ryde began well enough after the break, with Gledhill foiled by Kyprianou in the 46th, and the keeper also doing well to save from McKie who had latched onto a cross.

A Paul Watkins free kick went just over the bar and a header from Tim Stratford was saved at the foot of the post in the 64th, before Kyrpianou touched out an angled shot by Borg from the left.

Stanmore then got right on top again, Lardis going close with a shot which fairly whistled past the post.

Paul Andricopoulos sent Anganostopoulos on his way with a well weighted pass in the 73rd and the deceptively skilful striker then got the better of two defenders before hitting a superb, unstoppable shot with his lethal left foot for the equaliser.

Briscoe and Lardis twice exchanged passes just inside the Ryde half as Briscoe went on to hit a lovely left footer past the keeper for an 81st minute winner.

Anagnostopoulos also nodded inches over the bar towards the end, from a free kick sent over by Theo Katsaros, as the large crowd came to their feet.

It was a great comeback and with so many players firing for Stanmore, Ryde could find no answer to hang onto their lead as the defence was caught flat-footed time and again.

Ryde may have erred with the timing of their substitutions as there was too little time for the proven finishing skills of Jim Boudaher and Alf Cirino to settle in.

Ryde's successful coach of many years, Les DeCelis, told his players soon after the game that he would be standing down, a decision he had already intimated some weeks ago to members of the committee.

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL – UNDER 21

RYDE CITY GUNNERS 1 HURSTVILLE CITY MINOTAURS 0

Ryde City enjoyed a tense tussle with old rivals Minotaurs at Rockdale on Saturday, winning with an 82nd minute goal attributed to Hurstville defender Nick Andreou.

MINOR SEMI-FINAL – UNDER 21

HILLS UNITED 1 BATHURST '75 0

Bathurst enjoyed their best spell in the first half of a game which slipped away from them towards the end on a very warm afternoon.

Very early on Simon Davis hit a powerful shot against the underside of the Hills' bar, but the ball landed the wrong side of the line according to the match officials, so Bathurst were out of luck on that occasion.

Then in the 10th minute, from a cross by Philip Warburton, Geoff Dwyer connected from 10 metres to beat the Bathurst keeper nicely.

Bathurst coach Judge announced after the game that he would be stepping aside for good this time, having made a comeback earlier in the season to take over the first team again, after starting the year in charge of the Under 18s.

PRELIMINARY FINAL – BRIEF PREVIEW

The re-match between the Premiers Hurstville City Minotaurs and the re-invigorated Stanmore Hawks should provide an excellent contest at Seymour Shaw Park this Sunday where a big crowd is likely to be in attendance.

Last time the sides met it was at Arlington Oval and a huge turnout saw the Minotaurs wrap up the title with a slender 1-0 win, thanks to a last minute goal from John Palapanis.

At the time Stanmore were in a bit of a form slump and had not won for weeks, but since then they have doggedly shown their determination to succeed with a last gasp draw in their final round match against Ryde to qualify for the semis, followed by back to back wins in Bathurst and last weekend against Ryde.

Minotaurs went down to Easts last weekend and have generally been below their best for some time now.

It all points to a contest which Stanmore can win without surprising, though in finals football anything is likely to happen.

Minotaurs will be without the suspended Dario Fernandez and will be looking to Louis Dounis to get the better of a well-drilled Hawks defence.

Eddie Briscoe won't have things all his own way, but the presence of a fully fit Jason Oldridge and some intelligent running by Paul Andricopoulos and Michael Lardis will give Stanmore a keen edge.

Minotaurs must be slight favourites as Stanmore have not scored a goal against these opponents in two previous meetings, while conceding seven.

Statistics don't mean everything, however, a fully on-song Stanmore can beat anyone right now.

The Under 21 game brings Minotaurs up against Hills United, the two sides having engaged in an epic struggle all season for the coveted top spot.

Hills are without the injured Mark Hagger, but are much the same team which beat the Minotaurs 5-0 in the two sides' last meeting in July.

With Minotaurs no doubt fully-focused on the first grade game to follow, Hills can give the game everything on the day and will be good value.

Expect to see big contributions from Francis Davila, Geoff Dwyer and captain Steve Vanega once more, while the Hurstville big shots are likely to be fired by Billy Drossos, Jim Iliopoulos and Peter Ifandoudas.

AND THEN THERE WERE THREE

By BOB BROOKS

Leichhardt Tigers proved superior to Blacktown City Demons in the Super League Minor Semi Final, at Melita Stadium on Saturday.

The Tigers came away 2-1 winners, the decisive goal coming in the sixth minute of extra time.

Unfortunately the pitch showed the results of a long season, being bumpy in parts and bare in large patches. This led to a number of errors by the players, some of which, made them look foolish.

The Tigers dominated the first five minutes but the Demons gradually came back into it. Stuart Cleary forced a diving save to the left by Ante Covic at the seven minute mark.

Leichhardt were awarded a free kick just outside the box. Blago Milicevic struck it well but it went the wrong side of the bar.

The opening goal came in the 27th. Jeremy Pettenon shot powerfully and Fernando Greco just managed to tip the ball over. From the resulting corner, Blacktown failed to clear their lines effectively, and Mite Talcevski dipped low to get his header on target and in the net.

Blacktown came out revitalised in the second half and gained their reward three minutes in. Some delightful football firstly from Damon Langan, with a ball along the right touchline, which was flicked on by Stuart Cleary. The most dangerous Demon, Steve Cutler, put the ball into the danger zone where Steve Berry moved goalwards.

Ante Covic came out to narrow the angle and deflected Berry's shot straight to Jeff Suzor on the edge of the box, who made no mistake to bring the game back to level terms.

Shortly after, the Demons went close when Luke O'Connell struck the corner of the upright.

Leichhardt came back into the game as Blacktown's efforts went without further reward. A Martin Driene free kick 35 metres out on the right had Demons' Greco groping to push it away.

Then it was Langan, at the other end, from a corner who fired in a thunderbolt which was saved brilliantly, to his right, by a flying Covic.

Ante Juric moved into midfield and this changed the pattern of the game. His powerful runs spelt danger, with one of his efforts, along the ground, forcing Greco to a full length finger-tip save.

Extra time was needed to divide the teams. Despite much effort by the Demons, it was the Tigers who claimed the golden goal. Juric shot goalwards, the ball was not completely cleared and Tom Bazdaric picked up the rebound to power it home.

Leichhardt move on to the Preliminary Final this weekend while Blacktown's topsy-turvey season has come to an end.

In the U/18s, Macarthur Rams proved too good for Canterbury Marrickville with a comprehensive 2-0 victory.

Blacktown City went out of the U/21s going down 1-0 to St George Saints.

EAGLES STORM INTO FINAL

By DAVID COOPER

Parramatta Eagles stormed into the Super League Grand Final on the back of a Saso Petrovski hat-trick in Sunday's 4-1 Major Semi Final win over Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

On a sunny but blustery day at the Gabbie Stadium, Parramatta totally dominated from the opening whistle and in the end the scoreline could have been considerably higher.

Parramatta now have a week's rest and will be waiting confidently for the winner of the Preliminary Final clash between Bonnyrigg and Leichhardt Tigers.

With the wind at their backs in the first half, Parramatta were looking to get on top early and were rewarded with a goal after only five minutes.

Petrovski dispossessed Bonnyrigg defender, James Warburton, 25 metres out from goal before racing into the box and finishing clinically past Mike Gibson.

Steve Karavatakis — who could well be playing in the Ericsson Cup next season — should have capitalised on a great pass from David Huxley eight minutes later, but sent his shot across the face of goal.

A disallowed goal to Petrovski in the 21st minute for offside was followed by several near misses to Gabriel Mendez and Karavatakis (twice), as the Eagles looked like running up a large score.

Bonnyrigg, although outplayed, showed signs that they might provide some better opposition in the second half, with Stefan Janic almost equalising in the 44th minute, his shot from 12 metres going over the crossbar.

Running against the breeze in the second half, Parramatta would have been expected to be defending for most of it. But when Karavatakis had a shot go just wide with only 20 seconds on the clock, the signs were not good for Bonnyrigg.

With intelligent use of the ball and a smothering defence which gave Janic, Milan Savic and Javier Mancino little opportunity — Parramatta kept applying the pressure.

That pressure finally told in the 58th minute when the influential Mendez swung over a beautiful cross for Karavatakis who scored with a diving header from 10 metres.

Mendez and then Karavatakis were then denied in quick succession by Gibson, however in the 76th minute, Bonnyrigg were awarded a penalty after referee Simon Micallef adjudged Paul Dee to be fouled in the box after a determined run. Janic made no mistake from the spot and the game was back to life.

With Bonnyrigg pushing players forward looking for an equaliser, Parramatta started finding plenty of gaps in their defence.

With only minutes to go, Mendez played Petrovski through and he raced 40 metres to slot home the winner.

He then completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot in injury time after substitute Mauricio Islas was brought down by Paul Richardson as he moved into the box.

★★★ SUPER LEAGUE ★★★

Sunday August 24

PRELIMINARY FINAL – MELITA STADIUM, SOUTH GRANVILLE

1STs Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Leichhardt Tigers.....3pm
U21s Macarthur Rams v St George Saints.....12.30pm
U18s Blacktown City Demons v Macarthur Rams.....10.30am

1ST DIVISION – Sunday August 24

PRELIMINARY FINAL – SEYMOUR SHAW PARK, MIRANDA

1STs Hurstville City Minotaurs v Stanmore Hawks.....3pm
U21s Hurstville City Minotaurs v Hills United.....12.30pm
U18s Mt Pritchard v Rockdale City Suns.....10.30am

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AROUND THE CLUBS

Wandering Star Returns

South Melbourne were delighted to report their latest signing last week when revealed the signature of John Anastasiadis.

The 29-year old attacking midfielder-cum-winger joined The Lakers other pre-season signings, Goran Lozanovski and Con Boutsianis, after spending eight seasons with PAOK in the Greek First Division, whom he joined from Heidelberg.

This latest move, by a club still under the critical eye of the sports governing body in Australia, establishes South Melbourne as having one of the strongest squads for the upcoming Ericsson Cup season.

The Lakers coach, Angie Postecoglou, said in a brief statement, "John is a proven performer at the highest level and there's no doubt his pace and skill will add yet another dimension to our exciting, attacking style of play."

Anastasiadis joined his new team-mates for pre-season training with Postecoglou enthusing, "It's vital that we have a versatile squad capable of adapting to a range of conditions and opponents, and John gives us another option across the midfield and up front."

It is expected that further news of the teams on-field activities will be made in a series of major announcements this week, as part of The Lakers ongoing campaign to consolidate their position as one of Australia's premier sporting clubs.

John Anastasidis: Back home after eight years in Greek First Division.

Glory Building for New Season

Perth Glory is proving an attraction for overseas players. Currently there are players from Cameroon, Chile and Croatia trying for a spot in the team.

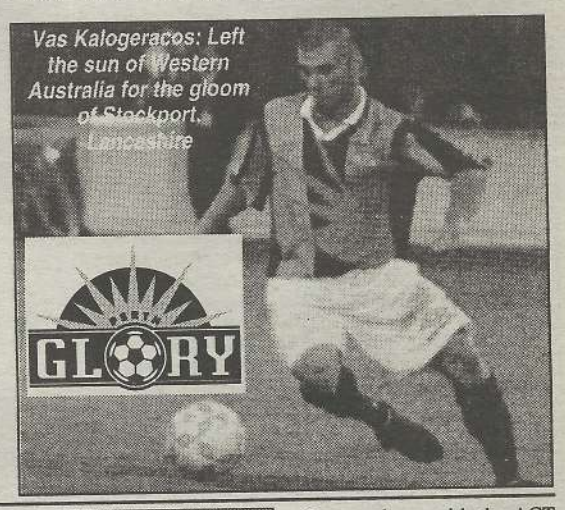
Cameroon international, Mani Mboudou Vincent Desire, aged 24, could add some African flair to the West Australian outfit.

From Chile, via Indonesia, is the journey to Perth for Julio Moreno. The 26 year old was a Chilean Youth international.

Darko Cvijanovic, an attacking midfielder who has recently being playing in China, is also in Perth. If the Croatian turns out to be half as good as Kresimir Marusic, he will be a major asset to the Glory, however, Alan McKenzie has been released by Perth due to persistent knee problems.

Anthony Carbone is at last year's runaway English First Division champions, Bolton Wanderers. He is trialling for a contract at the Lancashire club.

Stockport Country, promoted to the highest position in their 114 year history, are believed to have paid Glory $100,000 for the signature of Vas Kalogeracos.



Vas Kalogeracos: Left the sun of Western Australia for the gloom of Stockport, Lancashire

LEADERS SLIP IN WOLLONGONG

By PHIL MURPHY

Cringila supporters can start making plans for Grand Final day after their team disposed of Premier League champions Lysaghts 3-1 at Brandon Park on Sunday.

It was a stunning performance from a Cringila side which appears to have no weaknesses.

After a slow start to the season, Cringila bought some good quality players and coach George Keith believes their strength is in having top-class replacements. He said after Sunday's game he had a squad of 15 players all up to first grade standard.

"We have to be confident of making the Grand Final," Keith said.

"I am very pleased with that performance because Lysaghts have a very good side and it wasn't until the final 20 minutes that they caused us any problems."

Cringila had a dream start to the game, scoring after 90 seconds.

Peter Murray took a free kick on the left and Pepe Stanizzo got between a mass of players to head home.

Zonko Usljebrka and replacement Andon Dzeperovski also scored for Cringila while John Skalij grabbed a consolation goal for Lysaghts.

Lysaghts coach Phil Matias said his players gave away to silly goals.

"You can't give goals like that away to a side like Cringila," he said.

"I thought we showed some character to get back in the game when it was 3-0 but it was far too late."

Cringila will have match of the round billing again this week, taking on Port Kembla at Brandon Park.

Points Table: Bulli 38, Lysaghts 32, Cringila 31, Port Kembla 31, Dapto 30, Wollongong Olympic 29, Fernhill 26, Northern United 26, Wollongong White Eagles 24, Coniston 23, Balgownie 11, West-Figtree 2.

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PREMIER League leaders Bulli copped a blast from coach Peter Beggs after losing 2-1 to Dapto at Kanahooka Lodge on Saturday.

Beggs said his players didn't compete and Dapto destroyed them in the middle of the park.

The Bulli coach also described the Kanahooka Lodge surface as a dust bowl and too bumpy for Premier League.

"That's not an excuse for us losing," Beggs said.

"We weren't good enough, but the condition of the ground is something that should be looked at."

Bulli went ahead before the break through Trevor Whiddett but Dapto came out firing in the second half.

After just two minutes, Bobby Brodie scored a good goal with a well-struck low drive. Steve Baz grabbed the second six minutes later.

There was also an upset at Memorial Park, where Northern United kept their playoff hopes alive with a 2-1 win over Wollongong Olympic.

Declan Dowd and Claude Cellini found the net for Northern after Leon Alexiou had given the visitors the lead.

Striker Justyn Roberts scored a hat-trick in Port Kembla's 3-1 win against Coniston at Wetherall Park.

Balgownie also caused an upset, beating Fernhill 2-1 at Towradgi Park.

In the remaining game on Saturday, Wollongong White Eagles accounted for West Figtree 3-1 at Graham Park.

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CONISTON and Wollongong Olympic have qualified for the Final of $3,000 Bampton Cup. The Semi Finals were played at Brandon Park on Wednesday night with Coniston beating Lysaghts 1-0 after extra time and Olympic eliminating first division Kemblawarra 4-1.

Lysaghts had Coniston defending from the opening whistle but failed to crack a well-organised defence.

Lysaghts dominated the game but considering the possession they had they didn't create that many chances. Two minutes into extra time, replacement Vlad Jankulovski drilled a low shot from 20m into the Lysaghts net.

In the late game, Kemblawarra provided the big crowd with some entertaining football.

However, they let themselves down in front of goal.

Olympic went ahead against the run of play through Peter Zorbas and led 1-0 at the interval.

Kemblawarra dominated the early part of the second half and Paul Keating finished off a sweeping move to make it 1-1.

Leon Alexiou (2) and George Mahanidis scored as Olympic finished strongly.

A crowd of 1,143 watched the games.

The final will be played at Brandon Park on Wednesday night, September 3.

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LYSAGHTS coach Phil Matias would like a form of communication with ISA referees.

Matias has been in trouble for criticising refs this season and would like to see the coaches and whistlers get together about every six weeks. He said he was sure it would help ease tensions and provide better relations.

"I am having my first season in the job, everyone wants to beat us because we are the champions," Matias said.

"I have impressed on my players that they shouldn't get involved with the referees and they have been good all season.

"Unfortunately I have had a bit of bother but if we could have these meetings I am sure it would make life easier for everyone."

ISA president Neil Flanagan said he had no problems with coaches and referees getting together on a regular basis.

YOUMAN SCORES TWICE FOR NNSW WOMEN

By DANE SKAFTE

THE NORTHERN NSW Women's team travelled to Valentine Park, Parklea last week for their quarter final match against Bathurst in the NSW Waratah Shield.

Northern NSW, who are the defending champions, accounted for Bathurst 3-1, after going behind 0-1 by half-time. They got into the swing of the match in the second half and slotted home three goals to set up a meeting with Sydney United in the semi-finals.

Captain Shelley Youmen netted twice with defender Joanne Powell scoring the other goal. The semi-final is to be played next Tuesday, August 19 in Sydney.

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FORMER Newcastle Topper Breakers striker Harry James, has signed with the revitalised Novell Canberra Cosmos. The talented 21 year old Novocastrian left for Canberra last week and was signed on a two year contract by the club.

James has spent the last two seasons with the Newcastle Breakers and said it was time to move on and further his Soccer career. "It was a great learning experience in Newcastle and I had plenty of supporters which I will miss.

"The Cosmos is obviously a young club with ambitions and a future in Australian Soccer under coach Branko Culina," he said.

James is looking forward to playing in a team with such talented players as: Ante Moric, Captain Norman Kelly and flatmate Dale Wingell, who was lured from Perth Glory, after playing in their inaugural and highly successful season.

James will not be alone in Canberra, with fellow Newcastle defender Andy Roberts signing with the club earlier this year.

"When Branko contacted me several months ago about coming to Cosmos I had time to think about things and decided I could not refuse the offer," James said.

He will become a full time Soccer player with the ACT side, devoting some of his experience into developing the Junior Soccer club and school players in the district.

The Ericsson Cup season gets underway on Saturday, October 4 with Canberra taking on Culina's old club, Sydney United.

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ADAMSTOWN Rosebuds Sport and Recreation Club will hold a special reunion next month for all former senior players.

Many legends of the game have agreed to attend, such as: Col 'Bunny' Curran, Ray Baartz, Joe Embleton and Graham Jennings. This will be their last official Soccer function before the 108 year old club moves to Adamstown Bowling Club. The festivities get underway from 7pm and include entertainment plus a light supper. For further information contact: Kelly Strong on 525 873 or Alan Davies 573 447 at the club.

CITY MUST WAIT

By GLENN DAVIS

On Sunday, away from home, Brisbane City overcame a week of controversy to sew up a place in the XXXX League Grand Final with a convincing 3-1 win over Bundaberg Waves in the Major Semi Final.

Brisbane City were in the driver's seat for a Grand Final berth after racing to a shock 2-0 lead within 10 minutes of the kickoff.

A header from midfielder Damien Waugh gave City a 1-0 lead after only two minutes before referee Derek Crawford awarded the visitors a penalty after Chris Slater was felled in the box.

Midfielder Shane Haddow — who notched up a double — made no mistake from the penalty spot.

Haddow, who had an excellent game along with Brisbane's keeper Daniel Duke, put his side ahead 3-0 with a thundering volley late in the game — before Bundaberg struck back with 10 minutes to go via a header from Mark Foy.

Brisbane City — now favourites to repeat last year's feat by Brisbane Lions' in winning the Premiership-Grand Final double — protested to the Queensland Soccer Federation last week about playing the Major Semi Final away from Queensland Soccer headquarters at Perry Park.

The QSF accepted an application from Bundaberg Waves to play a Semi Final in Bundaberg to help promote the code in country regions.

The decision angered Brisbane City, its players and several other XXXX League clubs who believed the Premiers were disadvantaged by the ruling.

While they now have a week off to recover from their rugged Major Semi Final, Bundaberg have one last chance of making the Final when they play Taringa Rovers in the Preliminary Final at Perry Park next weekend.

Taringa Rovers ended Brisbane Lions' season with a goal two minutes from time by the talented teenage striker Glen Kolpak, in Saturday night's knockout Semi Final at Perry Park.

Kolpak, who has had an inspired season and recently impressed Olyroo coach Raul Blanco, drove home from close range after Danny Stowers broke clear down the left flank and passed inside to midfielder Danny Invincible, who in turn off loaded for Kolpak's strike.

Taringa's game breaker came three minutes after Stowers crossed into a congested goalmouth where replacement striker Scott Robinson missed an open chance in front of goal.

Taringa looked the better of the two sides, but Brisbane Lions were not without their share of chances with Robert Pudga curling a shot which produced a brilliant diving save from Taringa keeper Scott Higgins, who knocked the ball up for Des Hughes to head off the line.

Both sides started the match under-strength — Lions losing the highly rated Roy Huth, who spent the night in hospital after dropping a boulder on his hand at home, while Taringa had injured sweepers Dmitri Theochari benched and Joel Hale and Darren Hillier pulling out due to injuries.

Taringa coach, John Ogden, was disappointed with a sloppy first half from his young team while rival coach Miron Bleiberg rated the game even and blamed his side's lack of scoring ability for their defeat.

"It was an even game but we struggled to score like we have done all year," Bleiberg said.

"We know our problem and we'll correct it for next year."

Bleiberg predicted Taringa would go on to overcome Bundaberg in next week's Preliminary Final for a Grand Final showdown with Brisbane City.

"City have the all-round experience and a final between them and Taringa would be a good advertisement for the game," he said.

"Taringa are quite a good side but can be a bit leaky at the back."

Soccer Canberra

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— By GRAHAM COOKE

ANTE MORIC TO GERMANY?

Canberra Novell Cosmos have lost wing back Ante Moric before the former youth international has had a chance to kick a ball for the club.

In what might create some kind of record, Moric is now almost certain to move on to German Bundesliga club Hansa Rostock just a month after coming to terms with Cosmos team boss Branko Culina, who was his coach at Sydney United. He has already left Australia for talks and a trial in Germany.

Culina said he expected to know Moric's decision by the middle of this week "but I am not hopeful of seeing him back here," he said.

Meanwhile, the coach's recent trip to Europe has not yielded any immediate results in signings for the club, although Culina said he is still in negotiations with a player from English first division outfit Portsmouth, in which Australian team boss Terry Venables has an interest.

"The problem with Europe is that most of the players who would do us some good are out of our price range, and those we can afford are generally below the standard we require," he concluded.

Ante Moric: From Sydney United to Canberra and on to Germany.

Olyroos back at Bruce ...

The Olyroos wind up their six-week tour of the east-coast, back where they began, with a game at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra tomorrow (Wed) night.

There the similarity ends. On July 12 the Australians won a glamorous international fixture against their South African equivalents by 2-0 at the Bruce Athletics Field. Tomorrow night the venue is a nearby training pitch and the opposition comprises a group of local youngsters who, in the words of their coach, Jimmy Bland, "are having a shot at a dream".

The ACT Young Rockets will take the field in the hope they will perform well enough to catch the eye of Olyroos team boss Raul Blanco.

For two or three, Scott Manson (Belconnen United), Gabby Exposito (Olympic), Oscar Zamora (Gungahlin Juventus), the prospect is not entirely remote, but the majority will be content to share the pitch with many of the future heroes of Sydney 2000.

The game kicks off at 7pm.

PEACE CUP SHARED WITH NARA U15's

The touring Nara under/15 representative team from Japan were unbeaten on their tour of the ACT, beating Marist College 2-1 and drawing 1-1 with Belnorth and the ACT Under/16s.

The latter result means the teams share the inaugural Canberra-Nara Peace Cup, an appropriate result for the first sporting exchange between the two sister cities.

NOVELL ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Q'beyan City	1	Can. Deakin	3
Bel United	0	Can. City	0
Uni of Canberra	1	Weston Creek	4
Olympic	3	G'gahlin Juventus	1
T'ranong Utd	2	Monaro	4

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bel Utd	18	14	2	2	0	42	7	48
Olympic	18	13	1	0	4	49	18	41
W Creek	18	12	2	0	4	54	29	40
C. Deakin	18	9	3	0	6	35	22	33
Monaro	18	10	1	0	7	38	26	32
Can City	18	8	1	2	7	41	31	28
Juventus	18	7	2	1	8	35	24	26
Uni-Can	17	2	1	2	12	14	43	10
Q'beyan	18	2	1	1	14	14	69	9
T'nong U	17	1	0	0	16	13	66	3

Leading scorers to August 10

23 Lazzari (Weston Creek)
13 Cattanach (Olympic) *6 for Canberra City.
12 Popovich (Olympic)
11 Pangallo (Belconnen United)
10 Barac (Canberra Deakin)
9 Phommaseisy (Canberra City)
7 Serena (Monaro)
Giampaolo (Olympic)
Manson (Belconnen United)

Reserves: Queanbeyan City 1 Canberra Deakin 17, Belconnen United 1 Canberra 0, University of Canberra 2 Weston Creek 1, Olympic 6 Gungahlin Juventus 0, Tuggeranong United 0 Monaro 4.

Points: Belconnen United 51, Canberra Deakin 40, Olympic 40, Weston Creek 40, University of Canberra 29, Monaro 28, Canberra City 25, Gungahlin Juventus 11, Tuggeranong United 8, Queanbeyan City 3.

YOUTH: Queanbeyan City 3 Canberra Deakin 8, Belconnen United 8 Canberra City 0, University of Canberra 0 Weston Creek 7, Olympic 1 Gungahlin Juventus 4, Tuggeranong United 1 Monaro 3.

Points: Weston Creek 47, Gungahlin Juventus 46, Canberra Deakin 44, Belconnen United 40, Olympic 25, Monaro 25, Canberra City 19, University of Canberra 18, Tuggeranong United 4, Queanbeyan City 4.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Defence Acad	1	Uni of Canberra	5
Belconnen Utd	0	Burns Club	7
Cooma	3	Capital City Suns	0
White Eagles	0	ANU	15

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
C.C Suns	21	17	1	0	3	80	33	53
Cooma	21	16	0	0	5	70	25	48
ANU	21	14	1	0	6	81	33	44
Burns C.	21	14	1	0	6	65	27	44
Bel Utd	21	9	2	0	10	43	42	31
W Eagles	20	4	0	0	16	15	86	12
Def·Acad	19	3	1	0	15	22	75	11
Uni-Can	20	2	0	0	18	18	73	6

Leading scorers to August 9

26 Lemezina (Capital City Suns)
24 Tonini (Cooma)
15 De Ruyter (ANU)
14 Blazevski (Capital City Suns)
Wiseman (ANU)
Van Der Plaat (Cooma)
13 Cringle (Burns Club)
12 Bryett (Belconnen United)
Kostevski (Capital City Suns)

Reserves: Defence Academy 0 University of Canberra 0, Belconnen United 4 Burns Club 0, Cooma 4 Capital City Suns 0, White Eagles 0 ANU 9.

Points: ANU 55, Belconnen United 53, Burns Club 46, Cooma 34, White Eagles 29, Defence Academy 21, University of Canberra 14, Capital City Suns 2.

YOUTH: Defence Academy 2 Belconnen United 7, Belwest-Olympic 0 Radford 0, Tuggeranong United 7 Marist 1.

Points: Belconnen United 60, Belwest-Olympic 48, Tuggeranong United 39, Radford 38, White Eagles 27, Defence Academy 20, Marist 17.

Division 2: ANU A 1 Ginninderra 1, Belconnen United 5 Canberra City 0, Calwell Valley 6 Weston Creek 0, Burns Club 1 Wollondilly Wanderers 1.

Culina Imposes discipline

Canberra Novell Cosmos coach Branko Culina is already stamping his personality on the club with one of his first rules, no walk-on performances at training.

From now on only players who have received a direct invitation from the coach will be welcome at the sessions, which began last week.

That is in stark contrast to his predecessor, Mike Lyons, and indeed to coaches who have run flagship Canberra teams in the NSW and National leagues for as long as anyone can remember.

In the past hopefuls rolled up unannounced to "test the water" and see if they fitted in; usually they drifted away just as casually. In the days when ACT Soccer and the National League shared the same season there were massive attendances at the early sessions. Players with no intention or ability to play in the big league took the opportunity to get fit and hone their skills for the local season.

Culina's ruling will certainly make for a more focused approach, and the initial set of invitations indicates there will be few with the commitment and ability who escape the net.

Five players who were not part of last year's Cosmos set-up have been selected in a group of 15. Of these, big Belconnen United defender Jason Dunn is no surprise. He was a first-team regular in the club's debut season in the national competition, and his absence last year was seen by many observers as an amazing omission on the part of Lyons.

Dunn's team-mate, Adrian Dowling, has been one of the in-form youngsters of the local season, and United goalkeeper Steve Bakas is being given the chance to fight it out with Barney Smith (Canberra Deakin) and Ben Harris (Monaro) for the right to be understudy to Anthony Giannasca.

Defender or midfielder Steve Vanzetti (Olympic) is now at the peak of his career, having gathered experience both in the ACT League and the NSW SuperLeague with Canberra Deakin; Ilija Prenzoski (Queanbeyan City) one of the most naturally gifted players in the local league, must now prove he also has the character required to perform at a higher level.

Of the players coming back, perhaps the biggest question marks hang over the commitment of striker Tony Lemezina, whose form last year was nothing special, and Jimmy Baxter whose total dedication to the club is an inspiration to all, but who has yet to come to terms with the passing years.

Indications are others not initially named will get a call in the next few weeks: The Premier League's leading scorer, Weston Creek's Steve Lazzari, knows it's now or never for the big time, and the Olympic pair of George Cattanach and Gabby Exposito have too much talent to be passed over.

The local invitation players are:

Tony Lemezina, Barney Smith, Lindsay Wilson, Jimmy Baxter, Ben Harris, Jason Dunn, Steve Bakas, Toplica Popovich, Adrian Dowling, David Milin, Peter Mazis, Mladin Rogic, Steve Vanzetti, Ilija Prenzoski, Alex Tsiokos.

Jason Dunn: Experienced National League defender going for a position with Cosmos.

Olympic face tough schedule

By GRAHAM COOKE

Olympic wrapped up second spot in the ACT Premier League with a 3-1 win over Gungahlin Juventus on Sunday, but there will be precious little time for Ray Junna's squad to celebrate.

This Sunday it faces a daunting Major Semi Final against unbeaten Minor Premier Belconnen United and the following Wednesday a Waratah Cup tie with Edgeworth Eagles of Newcastle.

"Obviously it would be to our advantage if we beat Belconnen, or we will be facing three crucial games in eight days," Junna said.

"but we've already lost Toplica Popovich who came to us and said he wants to concentrate on getting a place in the Canberra Cosmos squad.

"Then Andrew Young got a yellow card today, so that means he'll be out against Belconnen."

Junna said the Waratah Cup was at least on the same level of important as the Premiership for Olympic.

"We have the chance of playing against National League sides in the Cup, and if the boys perform well, there's always the possibility of them being picked up for a trial," he said. "And you can't discount the prize money that's on offer.

"It's just a series of knock out matches for us now, and we don't mind that because it always seems to bring out the best in us."

That best was missing from most of Olympic's play during the game with Juventus. It created considerably fewer chances than its opponent, and if it had not been for the sharpness of its two front men, George Cattanach and Njegosh Popovich, it could easily have dropped points.

Popovich opened the scoring, timing a run to perfection to meet a Young free-kick and head past a stranded Pedro Pavez in goal.

The second was an even more spectacular header from Cattanach who rose head and shoulders above his defenders to head home a corner from Vic Fernandez.

Juventus got one back before half time — a long, low drive on the run from Lou Gaspari after he had been set up by Tony Rinaudo, but the game was sealed five minutes after the interval when Elliott Zwangobani followed up on a Cattanach shot which hit the underside of the bar and bounced out.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

CANBERRA City showed the form that had been missing for the last month in its scoreless draw against Belconnen United, writes Nick Guoth.

Even when it lost Ty Tran, sent off just before the break, City was the more threatening, and if it was not for Steve Bakas in goal, Belconnen's unbeaten record may have been tarnished.

At the other end of the field, Gavin McKay was superb in his defending, highlighted by a clearance off the line from a Tony Pangallo shot.

Leo Langone also worked hard in the midfield and together with Lyons created numerous chances. Yet the problem that has plagued City — putting the ball in the net, meant Belconnen finished the season without loss.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Next week's Semi Finals — Belconnen United v Olympic and Weston Creek v Canberra Deakin, were still without venues yesterday.

League officials are scrambling to find suitable grounds prompting questions as to why this task has been left so late?

NOVELL ACT Premier League

Sunday, August 24

MAJOR SEMI FINAL — *WODEN PARK*

Firsts Olympic v Belconnen United 2.30pm
Reserves Belconnen United v Canberra Deakin 12.30pm
Youth Weston Creek v Juventus 10.30am

Sunday, August 24

MINOR SEMI FINAL — *HAWKER OVAL*

Firsts Weston Creek v Canberra Deakin 2.30pm
Reserves Weston Creek v Olympic 12.30pm
Youth Canberra Deakin v Belconnen United 10.30am

Saturday, August 23

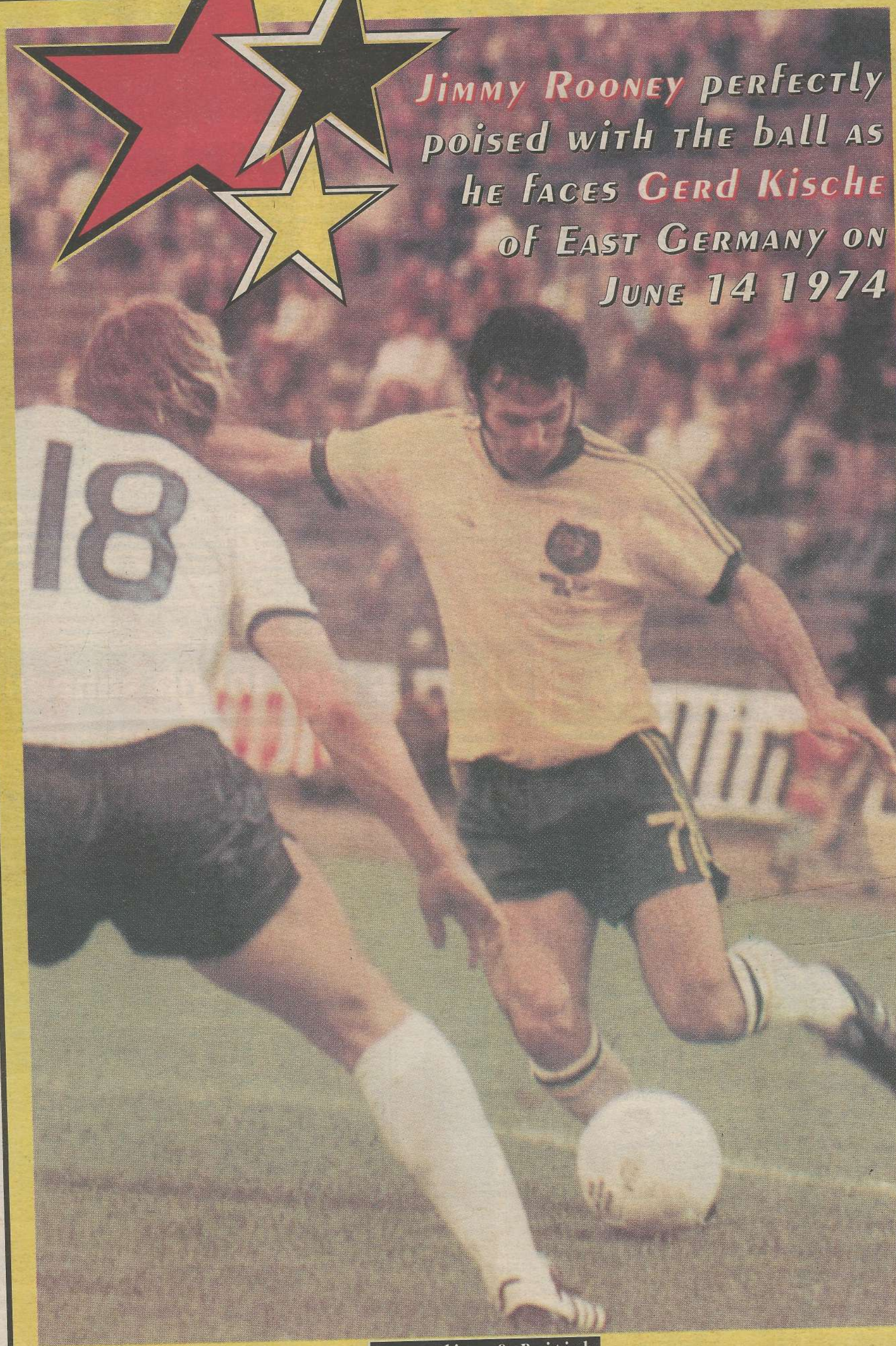
MAJOR SEMI FINAL — *HAWKER OVAL*

Capital City Suns v Cooma 2.30pm

MINOR SEMI FINAL — *JAMISON OVAL*

ANU v Burns Club 2.30pm

RESERVES 1PM. FIRSTS 3PM.



Jimmy Rooney perfectly poised with the ball as he faces Gerd Kische of East Germany on June 14 1974

Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

Jack Reilly of
Australia in
action at
World Cup 74
against West
Germany
Dresdner Bank
Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

Victorian Soccer Federation

PRESTON LIONS 0
BULLEEN INTER KINGS 2

By John Rigas

Two sensational goals by Bulleen youngster Damon Collina eliminated Preston Lions from the 1997 "Healthy Diet Try It" Premier League finals.

In blustery conditions Preston created an array of opportunities early. Lions' first chance was created in the fifth minute when midfielder Michael Burlak put his shot over the crossbar from three yards out. Left back Zoran Drogriski followed suit as his half-volley skied miles over the goal.

In the 22nd minute, Chris Emsovski floated a free kick into the area where Julian Ivanov also had his header go over the top.

Bulleen created their first clear cut opportunity moments later, through a Mark Bresciano header, expertly saved by Lupce Acevski.

Collina broke the deadlock in the 31st minute when he lobbed Acevski from 20 yards.

The Kings' confidence grew from then on as they applied the pressure in search for a second goal. Eric Hollingsworth produced a header that flew over the crossbar via a Robert Stojcevski free kick.

Bulleen's second goal was masterminded by Hollingsworth and Bresciano, who passed the ball out wide for Collina who took on a defender before slamming the ball past Acevski in the 61st minute.

The final ten minutes created breathtaking soccer with goaline clearances at both ends of the field.

Preston's Zlatko Donev had his shot cleared off the line by Dean Tartaglia in the 83rd minute, and two minutes later he had another strike on goal cleared away to safety by Danny Lisolaski.

Preston coach Andon Doncevski was lost for words after the game. His only comment was: "they deserved the victory, we did not deserve anything."

Doncevski's counterpart, Bogdan Bonk, said "both teams tried to play skilful soccer but the windy conditions made it difficult for the players".

He praised his young guns Collina, Bresciano and Tartaglia for their outstanding contribution.

Bonk is not worried about facing Bentleigh in the minor semi final, "the guys are confident, we will take a different approach next week", he ended.

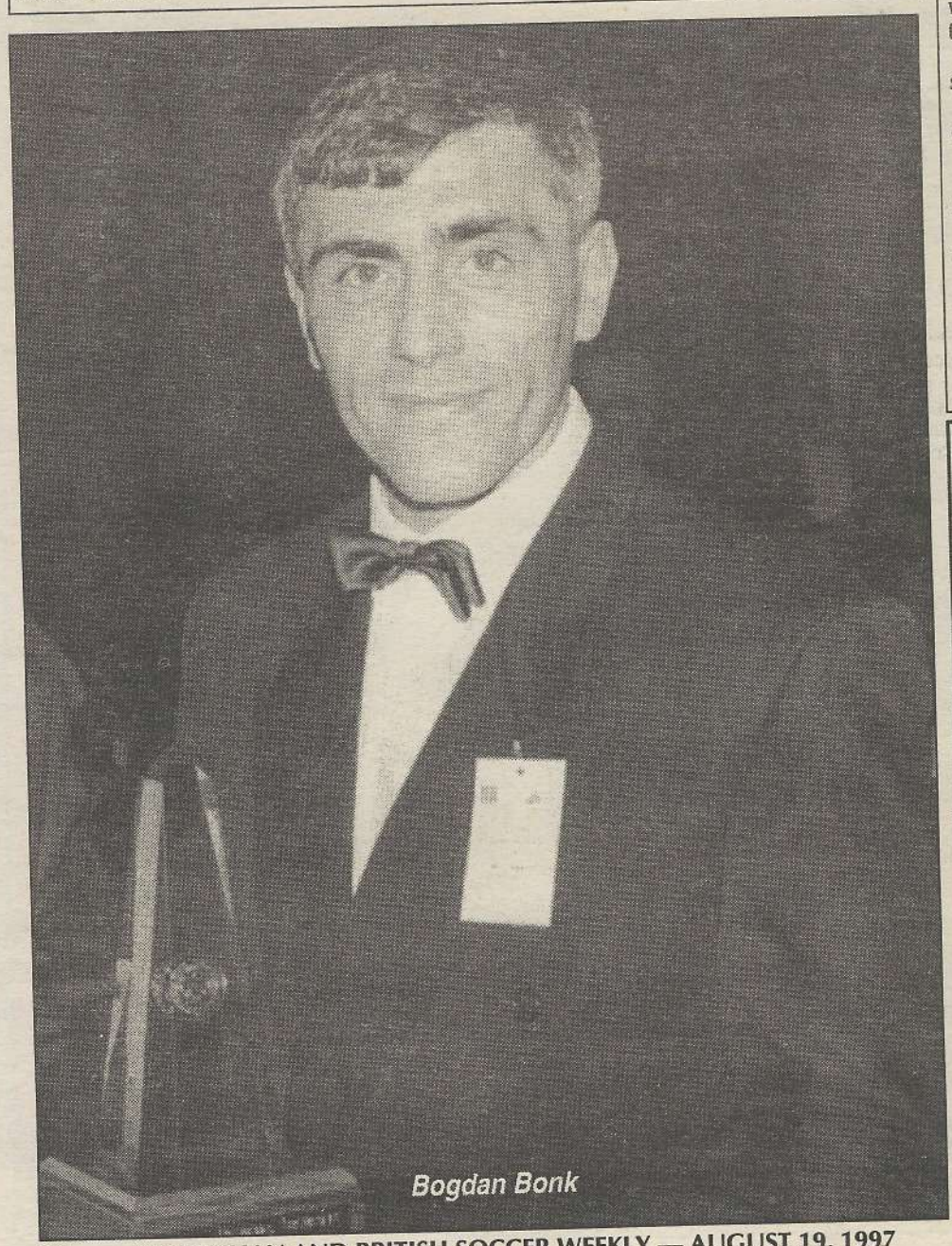
Lions: Acevski, Drogriski, Lisolaski, Stavrevski, Filiposki (Dimovski 61), Radecki (Chiodo 69), Ivanov, Bizimovski, Burlak (Slavevski 45), Emsovski, Donev.

Kings: Keogh, Valentic, Stojcevski, Tsiakos, Tartaglia, Bresciano, Collina (Mazzini 83), Grbac, Liparoti, Hollingsworth (McAleer 72), Guglielmi

Scorers:
KINGS: Collina (31,61)

Yellow Cards:
LIONS: Emsovski (86)
KINGS: Valentic (53), Hollingsworth (63), Collina (79)

Referee: P. Mur
Crowd: 1500


Bogdan Bonk

BENTLEIGH GREENS 1
GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 4

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Green Gully Cavaliers set up a date with minor premier Altona Magic after dispensing with Bentleigh Greens in the Qualifying Final on Sunday.

Bentleigh, at their home ground, were well beaten by a Green Gully side that shook off the lethargy that has plagued its run in to the finals campaign. The Greens now face Bulleen Inter Kings in the minor semi final this week.

With gale force winds and the occasional heavy shower, attractive soccer was never going to be on the agenda.

That affected Bentleigh's style of play more than the Cavaliers and they certainly made the most of the appalling conditions.

The weather was so bad that at one stage referee Senko Rastocic pulled the players off the park for five minutes to avoid the torrential downpour of rain and hail!

Both keepers were always going to have a tough day and Gully's Chris Vella was the first to find out the difficulties. A Bentleigh corner was knocked away by the Cavaliers defence, only for it to be played back in where the wind got a hold of the ball. Vella, struggling to catch the swirling ball, was beaten to it by George Kalimeris.

Kalimeris had his header cleared off the line by John Waddell, but soon after the ball was back in the danger area for Green Gully and Nick Van Egmond was there to steer the ball into the side of the net, however, Gully were level just three minutes later.

A free kick on the edge of the area given away by Andrew Theoharous was taken by Waddell — his shot deflected off the wall — wrong footing Jim Kourtis and into the goal.

Gully were ahead just a minute after the game was halted for the freak burst of weather. Jani Suric launched an outrageous left foot volley from 30 metres that came back off the bar.

Kourtis, beaten by the wind, had no answer for Daniel Genovesi's sweetly struck effort from the rebound.

Bentleigh were now struggling — injuries to key players Theoharous and Ike Alagiozidis ensured they would have a tough time to get back into the match.

Tony Neceski made it an impossible task when he scored the Cavaliers third in the 76th minute. Kourtis could only parry Neceski's long range rocket straight up into the air. He scrambled to his feet, but was not quick enough to stop the ball from blowing into the net.

Gully scored a fourth four minutes into stoppage time just to rub salt into the Bentleigh wounds. Substitute Peter Stojcevski blasted his free kick straight through the wall and past the bewildered Kourtis.

Cavaliers coach Chris Taylor didn't expect the margin to be so big, but said that they showed their class in the end.

"We stuck to our game plan and once we got our noses in front we were confident we could go on with it," Taylor said.

He predicted an even contest when his side meets Altona Magic this week.

"They're two very evenly matched sides. We're confident so long as we don't get complacent after today's win."

Bentleigh's Harry Chalkitis conceded that his team played poorly, but wouldn't use injuries or the conditions as an excuse.

"Both teams had to play out there. We went into the game with a few players not 100% fit, but finals are not the time to start making drastic changes to the team."

Bentleigh face an anxious week to see if Theoharous, Alagiozidis and Harry Micheil, who pulled out before the start of the game, will be fit for this weeks game.

Greens: Kourtis, Drakos, McDonagh, Constantinou, Theoharous (Papettas 68), Van Egmond, Charalambous (Kotsovolos 58), Alagiozidis (Rossios 71), Nilo, Crivari, Kalimeris.

Cavaliers: Vella, Spiteri, Steve Douglas (Stojcevski 88), Sean Douglas, Armstrong, Suric (Cimino 74), Neceski, Genovesi, Babic (Cuzzupe 81), Brown, Waddell.

Scorers:
GREENS: Van Egmond (35)
CAVALIERS: Waddell (38), Genovesi (49), Neceski (76), Stojcevski (90).

Yellow Cards :
GREENS: Theoharous (37)
CAVALIER : Armstrong (41), Brown (45), Babic (77).

Referee: S.Rastocic.
Crowd: 1500

Healthy Diet — Try It"

Premier League

FINALS SERIES — Week 2
Paisley Park, North Altona

Minor Semi Final

Bulleen Inter Kings v Bentleigh Greens — 12.30pm

Major Semi Final

Altona Magic v Green Gully Cavaliers — 3pm

Victorian Soccer Federation

STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

DIVISION ONE — ROUND 22
Kingston City 1 - Richmond 3
Maroondah Arrows 2 - Broadmeadows City 3
Westgate 0 - Doncaster Rovers 0
Western Suburbs 1 - Lalor United 0
Northcote City 1 - Springvale City 1
Moorabbin City 0 - Westvale 0
South Dandenong 4 - Werribee City 1
Table — South Dandenong 55, Westvale 50, Moorabbin City 50, Western Suburbs 47, Richmond 45, Kingston City 34, Springvale City 28, Werribee City 28, Lalor United 23, Northcote City 21, Doncaster Rovers 19, Westgate 18, Broadmeadows City 13, Maroondah Arrows 12.

DIVISION TWO — ROUND 22
Frankston Strikers 4 - Essendon Bruns. Royals 0
East Richmond 3 - Frankston Pines 2
Knox City 2 - Regent Bulla 2
Yarraville/Glen Eira 1 - Altona City 0
Old Scotch Waverley 0 - Mooroolbark 2
Oakleigh 2 - Altona East 3
Bell Park 1 - Ringwood City 3
Table — Ringwood City 50, Altona East 49, Oakleigh 44, Frankston Strikers 43, Yarraville/Glen Eira 37, Altona City 30, Mooroolbark 30, Knox City 29, Regent Bulla 27, Essendon Bruns. Royals 27, East Richmond 22, Old Scotch Waverley 21, Frankston Pines 15, Bell Park 8.

DIVISION THREE — ROUND 22
South Springvale 1 - Banyule City 1
Diamond Valley United 3 - South Caulfield 0
Keilor Park 0 - North Coburg United 0
Chelsea 1 - Cranbourne 0
Melbourne City 4 - Geelong 1
Pascoe Vale 3 - Nunawading City 0
South Werribee 2 - Fitzroy City 1
Table —Cranbourne 46, South Springvale 43, Chelsea 42, Melbourne City 40, Geelong 33, Pascoe Vale 28, Keilor Park 28, Diamond Valley United 25, South Werribee 25, North Coburg United 24, Banyule City 24, Fitzroy City 22, South Caulfield 21, Nunawading City 5.

DIVISION FOUR — ROUND 22
Sunbury United 1 - Seaford United 2
Sandringham City 1 - Langwarrin 2
Monbulk 1 - Stonnington City 3
Clifton Hill United 4 - Keysborough 0
Lalor 7 - Corio 2
Williamstown 2 - Moreland City 0
Geelong Rangers 1 - Sunshine Heights 2
Table — Stonnington City 51, Langwarrin 45, Keysborough 45, Sunshine Heights 41, Williamstown 37, Sandringham City 34, Clifton Hill United 33, Sunbury United 29, Moreland City 28, Geelong Rangers 25, Seaford United 21, Corio 19, Lalor 18, Monbulk 4.

***PROVISIONAL* DIVISION ONE — ROUND 21**
Doveton 1 - Endeavour United 7
Croxton Park 2 - Knox Park 2
Ballarat 1 - Mitcham United 0
South Wantirna 2 - Lyndale United 0
Glenroy 2 - Brandon Park 1
Springvale Condors 1 - North Sunshine Eagles 2
Sunshine Blues 1 - Melton 4
Table — South Wantirna 52, Melton 52, Croxton Park 44, Knox Park 42, Lyndale United 36, North Sunshine Eagles 32, Endeavour United 29, Sunshine Blues 24, Glenroy 23, Springvale Condors 22, Brandon Park 20, Mitcham United 17, Ballarat 14, Doveton 1.

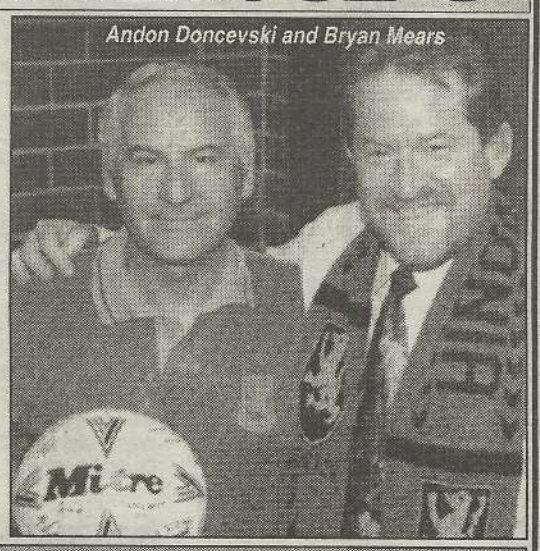
DIVISION TWO — ROUND 18
Keon Park 2 - Riversdale 3
Hoppers Crossing 7 - Berwick City 2
Brunswick City 0 - Braeside United 1
Meadow Park 2 - Sydenham Park 2
South Yarra 0 - Templestowe Eagles 3
Waverley Wanderers - bye
Table — Riversdale 36, Sydenham Park 35, Templestowe Eagles 32, South Yarra 30, Keon Park 28, Brunswick City 23, Hoppers Crossing 22, Braeside United 13, Berwick City 12, Meadow Park 11, Waverley Wanderers 10.

DIVISION THREE — METRO ROUND 18
Newborough/Yallourn 0 - Morwell Pegasus 1
Keilor United 1 - Uni. of Melb. Blues 5
Camberwell Grammar 0 - Ashburton 0
Melbourne University 0 - Elwood City 1
Dandenong 2 - Ringwood Rovers 1
Monash University - bye
Table — Morwell Pegasus 38, Newborough/Yallourn 38, Uni. of Melb. Blues 30, Dandenong 29, Melbourne University 22, Ashburton 21, Monash University 19, Camberwell Grammar 17, Elwood City 15, Ringwood Rovers 12, Keilor United 11.

DIVISION THREE — NORTH/WEST ROUND 18
Northern United 0 - Broadmeadows United 4
North Reservoir 0 - Watsonia Heights 0
North Glenroy 5 - Latrobe University 2
West Preston - Whittlesea United (game abandoned)
Somerton City 1 - Brimbank 0
Mill Park 1 - Darebin United 1
Table — Broadmeadows United 39, Darebin United 36, Somerton City 35, Latrobe University 34, Brimbank 32, Northern United 25, Mill Park 22, North Reservoir 19, North Glenroy 19, Watsonia Heights 18, Whittlesea United 6, West Preston 5.

DIVISION THREE — SOUTH/EAST ROUND 18
Noble Park 0 - Collingwood City 1
Ivanhoe United 3 - Dingley City 1
Flemington Falcons 2 - East Kew 0
Thornbury United 8 - Parkmore 2
Endeavour Hills 2 - Monash City 1
Table — Dingley City 42, Collingwood City 32, Noble Park 24, Endeavour Hills 17, Thornbury United 16, Flemington Falcons 16, Ivanhoe United 16, East Kew 16, Monash City 12, Parkmore 10.

"Healthy Diet — Try It" PREMIER LEAGUE


Andon Doncevski and Bryan Mears

STATE /PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 — ROUND 23
Saturday August 23
South Dandenong v Western Suburbs
Lalor United v Westgate
Doncaster Rovers v Maroondah Arrows
Broadmeadows City v Kingston City
Richmond v Moorabbin City
Westvale v Northcote City
Werribee City v Springvale City

DIVISION 2
Saturday August 23
Bell Park v Yarraville/Glen Eira
Altona City v Knox City
Regent Bulla v East Richmond
Frankston Pines v Frankston Strikers
Essendon Bruns. Royals v Oakleigh
Altona East v Old Scotch Waverley
Ringwood City v Mooroolbark

DIVISION 3
Saturday August 23
South Werribee v Chelsea
Cranbourne v Keilor Park
North Coburg United v Diamond Valley United
South Caulfield v South Springvale
Banyule City v Pascoe Vale
Nunawading City v Melbourne City
Fitzroy City v Geelong

DIVISION 4
Saturday August 23
Geelong Rangers v Clifton Hill United
Keysborough v Monbulk
Stonnington City v Sandringham City
Langwarrin v Sunbury United
Seaford United v Williamstown
Moreland City v Lalor
Sunshine Heights v Corio

PROVISIONAL
DIVISION 1 ROUND — 22
Friday August 22
Knox Park v Doveton (kick off 8.30pm)
Saturday August 23
Brandon Park v South Wantirna
Lyndale United v Ballarat
Mitcham United v Croxton Park
Melton v Springvale Condors
North Sunshine Eagles v Glenroy
Endeavour United v Sunshine Blues

DIVISION 2 ROUND — 19
Saturday August 23
Braeside United v Hoppers Crossing
Berwick City v Keon Park
Riversdale v South Yarra
Templestowe Eagles v Meadow Park
Waverley Wanderers v Sydenham Park
Brunswick City - bye

DIVISION 3 Metro — ROUND 19
Saturday August 23
Monash University v Keilor United
Uni. of Melb. Blues v Newborough/Yallourn
Morwell Pegasus v Melbourne University
Elwood City v Camberwell Grammar
Ringwood Rovers v Ashburton
Dandenong - bye

DIVISION 3 Nth/West — ROUND 19
Sunday August 24
Mill Park v North Glenroy
Latrobe University v North Reservoir
Watsonia Heights v Northern United
Broadmeadows United v Somerton City
Brimbank v West Preston
Darebin United v Whittlesea United

DIVISION 3 Sth/East — ROUND 19
Sunday August 24
Endeavour Hills v Flemington Falcons
East Kew v Ivanhoe United
Dingley City v Noble Park
Collingwood City v Thornbury United
Parkmore - bye
Monash City - bye

"Healthy Diet — Try It" PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Elimination Final: Preston Lions 0 — Bulleen Inter Kings 2 (Colina 31, 63)

Qualifying Final: Bentleigh Greens 1 (Van Egmond 35) — Green Gully Cavaliers 4 (Waddell 38 Genovesi 49 Neceski 76 Stojcevski 90)

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Around the Globe

FIFA World Cup 98

Group 1

Burkina Faso	2	Kenya	4

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Nigeria	5	4	1	0	13
Kenya	6	3	1	2	10
Guinea	5	3	0	2	9
Burkina F.	6	0	0	6	0

Nigeria advance to the World Cup

Group 2

Tunisia	4	Namibia	0
Egypt	5	Liberia	0

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Tunisia	6	5	1	0	16
Egypt	6	3	1	2	10
Namibia	6	1	1	4	4
Liberia	6	1	1	4	4

Tunisia advance to the World Cup

Group 3

Zambia	2	Congo DR	0
South Africa	1	Congo	0

	P	W	D	L	Pts
S. Africa	6	4	1	1	13
Congo	6	3	1	2	10
Zambia	6	2	2	2	8
Congo DR	6	0	2	4	2

South Africa advance to the World Cup

Group 4

Togo	1	Angola	1
Zimbabwe	1	Cameroon	2

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Cameroon	6	4	2	0	14
Angola	6	2	4	0	10
Zimbabwe	6	1	1	4	4
Togo	6	1	1	4	4

Cameroon advance to the World Cup

Group 5

Morocco	2	Gabon	0

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Morocco	6	5	1	0	16
Ghana	5	1	3	1	6
Sierra L	4	1	1	2	4
Gabon	5	0	1	4	1

Morocco advance to the World Cup

England Premier League

Aston Villa	0	Blackburn Rovers	4
Derby County	2	Wimbledon	1
Liverpool	1	Leicester City	2
Man Utd	1	Southampton	0
Sheffield Wed	1	Leeds United	3
West Ham Utd	2	T'ham Hotspur	1
Crystal Palace	0	Barnsley	1

Second Division

Afc B'nemouth	1	Wigan Athletic	0
Brentford	0	Chesterfield	0
Bristol City	2	Blackpool	0
Burnley	0	Gillingham	0
Carlisle Utd	0	Watford	2
P'mouth Argyle	2	Grimsby Town	2
P'ton Nth End	2	Millwall	1
Walsall	1	Fulham	1
Wrexham	3	Oldham Athletic	1
W'mbe Wand	0	N'ampton Town	0
York City	0	Bristol Rovers	1

Third Division

Barnet	1	Exeter City	2
Brighton & Hove Albion	1	Mac'field Town	1
Cambridge Utd	2	Rotherham Utd	1
Don Rovers	0	Pet'rough Utd	5
Hartlepool Utd	3	Colchester Utd	2
Hull City	0	Notts County	3
Lincoln City	1	Shrewsbury Town	0
Rochdale	2	Mansfield Town	0
S'thorpe Utd	1	Leyton Orient	0
Torquay United	1	Scarborough	0

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

QUEENSLAND XXXX League

MINOR SEMI FINAL

Taringa Rovers	1	Brisbane Lions	0

Major Semi Final

Brisbane City	3	Bundaberg Waves	1

Next Week

PRELIMINARY FINAL

Taringa Rovers v Bundaberg Waves

SP DIVISION 1N

MINOR SEMI FINAL

Albany Creek	2	Pine Rivers	1

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

Mitchelton	3	North Star	2

SP DIVISION 1S

MINOR SEMI FINAL

Inala City	3	Slacks Creek	0

MAJOR SEMI FINAL

Mt Gravatt	2	Toowoomba Utd	1

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

WESTERN AUSTRALIA Premier League

ROUND 21

1st

Fremantle City v Inglewood Falcons	1-1
Swan IC v Joondalup City	1-2
Floreat Athena v Bayswater City Panthers	2-2
Sorrento v Olympic	4-1
Stirling Macedonia v Spearwood Dalmatinac	4-1
Perth SC v Dianella White Eagles	3-3
Rockingham City v Leeming Strikers	3-1
Ashfield Bunbury v Balga	3-2
Bassendeon Caledonian v Balcatta	2-0
Cockburn Utd v Stirling Suns	3-2
Perth City v Queens Park	3-2
North Lake v Wanneroo City	0-3
University v Armadale	2-1

NNSW NBN League FIRSTS

ROUND 17

Weston Workers Bears	1	Wallsend Red Devils	1
Deloraine Eagles	1	Broadmeadow Magic	2
Belmont Swansea Swans	1	Hamilton Warriors	3
Easts Maitland	4	Cessnock Hornets	0
Highfields Wolves	2	Toronto Awaba Stags	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Edgeworth Eagles	16	11	3	2	54	15	36
Broadmeadow Magic	16	11	2	3	27	14	35
Highfields Wolves	16	10	4	2	36	10	34
Hamilton Warriors	17	7	6	4	29	20	27
Toronto Awaba Stags	17	7	5	5	36	28	26
Weston W. Bears	17	6	7	4	38	22	25
Easts Maitland	17	6	2	9	27	33	20
Cessnock Hornets	17	2	7	8	19	40	13
Wallsend Red Devils	15	1	3	11	16	41	6
Belmont Swans	16	1	1	14	8	67	4

Tooheys League

ROUND 20

Budgewoi Budgies	6	Singleton Strikers	0
Pasminco Roosters	2	Dudley/Redhead	2
Beresfield United	2	Sth Cardiff Gunners	1
W/Wallsend	1	Thornton Park	1
Tingira Eagles	0	Lambton Jaffas	3
W/Wallsend B'bells	3	Beresfield United	1

South Cardiff Gunners 52, Lambton Jaffas 42, Beresfield United 37, West Wallsend Bluebells 35, Thornton Park 34, Dudley/Redhead Utd 30, Budgewoi Budgies 28, Pasminco Roosters 27, Stockton Sharks 15, Singleton Strikers 15, Manning Mustangs 13, Tingira Eagles 5.

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WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

AUSTRALIA WHITE-WASHES HUNGARY

Australia followed up their fantastic victory over Sweden with a dominant 4-0 display against Hungary in Csarkvar last Sunday week.

After gaining a valuable glimpse at the Hungarian style of football two days earlier, against club side Renova Budapest, the Aussies went in confident and came away having outplayed their opponent in all departments.

Just ten minutes in and Australia had posted a goal in this, their initial meeting, against Hungary. Fullback Bridgette Starr, with an overlapping run upfield, dribbled into the attacking third. Her perfectly weighted cross found the head of Bryony Duus at the far post, whose strike was perfect.

The Aussies went close to doubling their lead five minutes later. Left midfielder Sharon Black crossed from wide to SA teammate Kristy Moore, whose header beat keeper Hosizuerika but slammed against the crossbar, with the Hungarian defence able to clear the dangerous rebound.

Black's pressure on central defence saw Hungarian Gyoji Sebestyen dispossessed of the ball on the edge of the penalty area, and Black neatly flicked the ball again to Moore who this time made no mistake in firing the ball past Hosizuerika, thus notching her first goal at international level.

Making a big impact up front in only her second game in the 'Green and Gold', Moore came close nine minutes later, her drive skimming the top of the bar. Australia had another chance before half-time, Sarah Cooper heading a Julie Murray cross just past the right post.

Clearly controlling the majority of the first 45 minutes, Australia's back line contributed with a well disciplined showing, restricting Hungary to just two strikes on goal for the half.

After the break, the visitors continued as they had left off, comfortably switching play and combining well as a unit to frequently create chances up front.

One such neat exchange originating from the defence ended with Duus lobbing a clever ball into the box for Black to head home in the 60th minute for a 3-0 lead.

Six minutes from time, Black received the ball from Duus, turned and played a great pass through to substitute Lisa Casagrande wide. Drawing the keeper, Casagrande then slotted the ball back to Black whose clinical finish sailed past two Hungarian defenders for Australia's fourth and final goal.

Hungarian National Coach, Istvan Bacso, had expected the match to be closer, and afterwards paid the visitors the following compliment, "We are not in the same category as the Australian team. I would class the Australians as one of the top six teams in the world after playing them tonight."

Greg Brown was well pleased with the Australian display as a whole. "Tonight our players put in a good, solid performance. Everyone did their jobs well. We were able to get players forward into good positions and we created great opportunities.

"It was encouraging to see Kristy Moore scored her first goal and fifteen year old Alicia Ferguson getting her first cap," he added. "Both players looked very comfortable which is pleasing considering their inexperience at this level. The defence controlled the pace of the game very well."

An ankle injury late in the game kept Kim Revell out of contention for the succeeding fixture against The Netherlands.

Australia:
Kitching, Cooper (Casagrande 75), Starr, Swaffer, Black, Revell (Thornton 80), Bartlett, Tann-Darby, Duus, Murray (Ferguson 65), Moore.

Hungary:
Hosizuerika (Bauer 70), Sebstyen, Marko, Fistoi, Mester (Mibatiu 50), Lubai, Szabo, Buykio (Ruff 50), Borr (Torog 42), Paraoumo (Giola 82), Noff.

Crowd: 1,322.

STRONG HOLLAND HELD BY AUSTRALIA

Australia paid for a lacklustre start against Holland last Thursday night in Grootebroek, but came back to record a 1-1 draw in a match they could have won.

Played at Sportpark de Kloet before a crowd of just under a thousand, The Netherlands soon found themselves outplaying the visitors. With the touring Australians looking uncharacteristically lethargic, the Dutch side took control and pressured in attack at every opportunity.

The home side were rewarded for their efforts in the 20th minute, catching Australia unawares as they quickly took a free kick in the middle of the park thirty metres out. The ball bounced up nicely for Griffioen whose powerful volley gave the exposed keeper, Belinda Kitching, no chance.

The Netherlands' dominance continued for the entire first half, earning them five clear strikes on goal to Australia's one — the visitors fortunate to go in at the break only a goal behind.

Seven minutes after the resumption The Dutch almost doubled their lead but they were denied by a magnificent save at full stretch by Kitching.

She stopped another Groffioen strike, which threatened to sneak into the left corner of goal.

Australia then thankfully snapped out of their uninspiring slumber, and looked a different side for the remainder of the second half. Three minutes after Kitching's save, the lively Lisa Casagrande was brought on and made an instant impact to spark Australia into attack.

Within no time, Casagrande had carved out for herself an opportunity on goal, but her final shot lacked the power to trouble Dutch keeper Marleen Wissink.

In the 65th minute, The Netherlands conceded a penalty. Anissa Tann-Darby stepped up to the spot, but failed to accept the gift, her attempt saved by Wissink with a dive to the right.

Four minutes later it was Casagrande who managed the equaliser. Julie Murray won a block tackle and released Sharon Black. The South Australian's diagonal cross to the right picked out Casagrande, whose determined run at goal saw her carry the ball twenty metres before finishing with a low drive, which eluded the outstretched arm of Wissink.

The goal prompted a number of further chances for the Aussies — now with a win in their sights. Kristyn Swaffer came closest, heading a corner kick against the crossbar, gathering the loose rebound, but her chip to the far post was desperately cleared by the Dutch defence, and the double chance went begging.

Both sides fought hard in the closing stages, neither team wanting to concede a goal in a match they each had chances to win. Kitching again proved the saviour with three minutes to go with another save at full stretch. The game ended with the scores level at one apiece.

Dutch Coach Rudi Dokter, preparing his team for matches before a World Cup Qualifier against Norway in October, was pleased with the start, but admitted they were unable to adjust as Australia picked up after the break. "Australia lifted the tempo in the second half and we couldn't continue to control the ball. The Australian players had great drive — we saw that tonight."

Greg Brown summed up the effort, saying afterwards, "We were very flat in the first half, but then in the second half, besides the penalty we missed, we had a lot of good opportunities that were saved off the line."

"Belinda Kitching had a faultless game, and Sarah Cooper played well," he added. "Our strikers Julie Murray and Kristy Moore worked well together, and Sharon Black was a real force again."

Lisa Casagrande: On as sub and scored the equalising goal.

Australia:
Kitching, Cooper, Starr, Swaffer, Gegenhuber (Bartlett 83), Black, Taylor (Casagrande 55), Tann-Darby, Duus, Murray, Moore.

The Netherlands:
Wissink, Mensink, Pauw, van Tol, Lodder, Koning, Wiegman, Griffoien, Van Waarden, Roos, van Eijck (Nieuwenhuis 67).

NSW SCHOOLS FAR TOO STRONG

NSW clearly dominated proceedings at the recent Australian Schoolgirls Championship, ending the week with maximum points and a four point lead at the top of the ladder.

Hosted at West Adelaide's Thebarton Oval, NSW were untouchable for the majority of the competition and conceded just the one goal over six matches.

The extent of their overwhelming performances was also reflected in the announcement of the Australian Schoolgirls Team at the tournament's conclusion. NSW had twelve representatives named in the 16 player squad.

Queensland and South Australia were next best, and performed well at times in what was overall a disappointingly uneven competition. After such a long absence from the national schools titles, South Australia's comeback display was particularly encouraging. Queensland, however, were depleted with a number of injuries within their ranks.

Australian Schoolgirls Coach, Greg Best, will lead the team's tour of New Zealand and the USA in December, with two internationals against both nations already confirmed. "I guess it's good that the (NSW) girls know each other's game, but it's a shame not to see the players coming through the other States," said Best of NSW's high tally in the team.

FINAL PLACINGS

1	NSW	18 points
2	QLD	12
3	SA	12
4	VIC	9
5	WA	7
6	ACT	2
7	NT	1

Player of the Tournament: Tracy Baker, NSW

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLGIRLS 1997
Tour to New Zealand and USA

1	Lynne White	SA	2	Candice McMinn	WA
2	Leah Cam	NSW	3	Kim Morris	SA
3	Danielle Clarke	NSW	4	Elissa Lyons	ACT
4	Kristine Collins	NSW	5	Yvonne Koulakis	NT
5	Kate Stork	QLD	6	Melissa Barbieri	VIC
6	Karen Dickinson	NSW	7	Tal Karp	WA
7	Neisha Klessattel	NSW	8	Amy Porter	VIC
8	Heather Garriock	NSW	9	Stacey Stocco	SA
9	Jo Burgess	NSW	10	Kristy Taylor	QLD
10	Debbie Trubee	SA	11	Karin Prince	SA
11	Tracy Baker	NSW	12	Azra Parker	QLD
12	Donna Marsden	NSW	13	Tracey Oldham	NSW
13	Kate Hensman	NSW	14	Belinda Seers	NSW
14	Alicia Cavanagh	NSW	15	Rebecca Morrison	SA
15	Megan Bond	QLD	16	Jamara Maza	VIC
16	Amanda Poulton	NSW			

SHADOWS

1 Terese Sippell ..... QLD

Coach: Greg Best, NSW
Assistant Coach: Geoff Stanmore, NSW
General Manager: Christine Hunt, QLD
Team Manager: Ian Johnson, ACT

1997 AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLGIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP
Thebarton Oval, West Adelaide — Sunday 3 August

SA	2	WA	0
QLD	6	NT	0
VIC	2	ACT	1

Monday 4 August

NSW	3	QLD	0
SA	2	NT	0
VIC	2	QLD	1
NSW	3	ACT	0

Tuesday 5 August

WA	1	NT	0
SA	1	ACT	0
NSW	3	VIC	1

Wednesday 6 August

WA	1	ACT	1
NSW	2	SA	0
VIC	1	NT	0
QLD	6	WA	0

Thursday 7 August

NSW	4	WA	0
QLD	1	ACT	0
ACT	0	NT	0
SA	2	VIC	1

Friday 8 August

QLD	1	SA	0
NSW	2	NT	0
WA	3	VIC	2

USA WIN NORDIC CUP

The USA stamped their number one status on world football with victory in last week's Under/20 Nordic Cup, an eight team tournament hosted in Denmark.

With maximum points from their three group matches against Denmark, Iceland and Sweden, USA took on Norway in the final, who had also notched up the full nine points.

A tight first half saw both sides with chances to score but no goals at half-time. As the full-time whistle blew, the score was still deadlocked at 0-0, taking the game into extra time.

Forward Jen Streiffer came off the bench in the 98th minute, and eight minutes later found herself the scorer of USA's golden goal. Running at the Norwegian defence she released Robin Confer who drew the keeper off her line. Streiffer received the ball back and slotted the ball into the open net.

Remembering of course that Australia's Youth Team recently played this American U/20 side and went down by just 1-0.

FINAL PLACINGS: 1 USA; 2 Norway; 3 Finland;4 Denmark; 5 Germany; 6 Sweden; 7 Netherlands; 8 Iceland

BELGIUM & ESTONIA NEXT OPPONENTS

Australia continues their European Tour with internationals against both Belgium and Estonia.

Despite having never met either of these teams, the Aussies are expecting to consolidate on their great performances to date, and retain their undefeated record on tour.

Belgium should prove to be a tough opponent and may be on par with the Dutch, having also earned themselves promotion into Europe's top sixteen-ranked nations after defeating Slovakia twice in last year's playoffs.

Belgium had reached this stage after finishing an easy first in Group Five of the UEFA Championship, ahead of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the Faroe Islands.

Estonia, on the other hand, should be much easier pickings for the Australians. Estonia ended their UEFA Championship without a single point at the bottom of Group Six behind Czech Republic, Poland and Belarus. Along the way, they suffered a number of heavy defeats and were unable to manage one goal over the six match campaign.

Tuesday August 19 7.00pm: Belgium v Australia, Brussels; Saturday August 23 5.00pm: Estonia v Australia, Tallin.

South Australian Soccer

By Val Migliaccio

ALL WOUND UP!

The Smokefree Premier League winds up with the final round before the all important finals campaign kicks off at Thebarton Oval.

At Steve Jarvis Park Minor Premiers, Raiders, tackle relegated Salisbury Apaches. Raiders coach Alby Kidd said, "I hope we can play ourselves into finals form. We have been a little out of form of late and we can improve."

The Apaches will want to prove a point and no doubt will be more than competitive, knowing this match will be their last official engagement for 1997. Dan Godley has emerged as one of the most consistent goalkeepers in the Premier League and his willingness to put his body on the line should encourage the side to play to their best capabilities.

Raiders have winners all over the park and Mark Camilleri has emerged as one of their unsung heroes with a fantastic work rate. With the Sergio Melta Medal awards night just around the corner, Raiders defender Andy Thompson must be in contention as one of the favourites, and he has certainly caught the eye of neutral observers.

At Newton Sportsfield, Campbelltown Red Devils host White City Warriors. The Red Devils will use this match as a mini-final with a Top Four berth at stake.

Michael Brooks has rejoined Adelaide City and the Red Devils will be looking for striker Paul Caporaso to shoulder the burden of goal scorer. The Red Devils defence has looked good in the past few weeks but will be wary of the danger posed by Warriors striker Frank Salmeron — who has been a shining light this season.

Red Devils Mario Rositano has added spice to their attack and Paul Beltrame has been nothing short of outstanding. White City have only pride to play for and this final match of the season will not be taken lightly. Damian Stam is one of the best midfielders in the league and is capable of destroying all before him if he sees enough of the ball.

John Manca's tenacity and endurance should spur the Warriors into a last hurrah for 1997.

At Woodville West, the Olympians could make or break their 1997 campaign in a thriller against Adelaide Blue Eagles. The Flames have hovered around the Top four all season and this match could present them with a gift for all their hard work. Looking at their line up, it is brimming with exciting talent and with the news that Jim Tsekenis will stay on for the finals must do wonders for morale.

Coach Zoran Maricic has brought his knowledge of the game to the Flames and has set high standards for the future. He knows that possibly only the Blue Eagles stand in their way of the finals and the lead up to the match is vitally important.

The Blue Eagles have been regulars of the Top four since its inception and 1997 will be no different. With the opportunity to win their fourth premiership in a row, Blue Eagles will be in no mood for charity. With Michael Berlingeri and player coach Zoran Karadzic, they will play an important role in the outcome of the match.

Captain Angie Giannitto has seen this type of predicament before and the experience and genuine concern for his beloved club will see Blue Eagles perform to their best.

At Camden Reserve, WT Birkalla meet Port Lion Pirates. Birkalla go into the match as favourites with the next week's second semi-final against the Raiders on their minds. Greg Mills' ability to guide them from the back has seen them progress at a rapid speed of knots.

Birkalla were not expected to give the premiership a jolt, coming from the State league in 1996, but to their credit they have now reached the point of being the Raiders most serious title challengers. With Mark Donk's successful return to form, Birkalla should be far too strong for the Pirates.

The Pirates last match for 1997 could see them blood youth in readiness for the 1998 season. With no danger of relegation, coach Ivan Zafran will urge his charges to do their best for the pride of the shirt. It has been hard to fathom what went wrong for the Pirates this season, given the fact that the nucleus of the side has been together for four seasons, with a 1994 minor premiership under their belt.

One player who never lets his team mates down is Leo Maio and he will fight for Birkalla until the end.

State League Other Matches

ROUND 22

ROUND 22 D-day for the State League with three clubs all hopeful of the title.

Elizabeth City v Para Hills at Ramsay Park
Plympton v Seaford v Wiegall Oval

Enfield City v West Adelaide at Rushworth Reserve

Adelaide City v Croydon at Polonia Reserve

Noarlunga v Cumberland at Wilf Taylor Reserve
Modbury v Port Pirie City at Golden Grove

PIRATES ON SONG!

The Homestart FUTSAL is moving right into gear with the penultimate round kicking off Sunday August 24.

Hillcrest Stadium sees newly rejuvenated Adelaide Force tackle Port Lion Pirates.

The Force are back with a vengeance under the guidance of Frank Blazevic who has turned the side around, focussing on the ultimate prize and so the Pirates could feel the brunt of the new attitude. The Pirates should be at full strength with George Haralabakis and Chris Groom the real terriers of the team. Ivan Zafran knows that a win against the Force will see them in a good position for the play-offs.

At Elizabeth Recreational Centre Northern Warriors tackle Red Devils in an interesting battle. The Red Devils at full strength have been devastating, with Dominic Signoriello and Dino Paris playing great Futsal, thereby enhancing their chances for the 11-a-side game. These youngsters have improved from day one and the inclusion of goalkeeper Simon Cecere has been a bonus.

The Warriors have the Agius boys still mesmerising the courts and they will give the Red Devils a match to remember.

At Hillcrest Stadium, North East Rangers host Ice Breakers in a match to finalise the Top four.

Icebreakers Palatianos and Byrne have shown why they are favourites of the Port Adelaide based club. It really will be make or break for them as a loss will end any hope they have of making the Finals play-offs.

BURN ON THE FLAMES!

As the curtains close on the Smokefree Premier League, Olympians are charging strongly after an incredible 9-1 victory over Port Lion Pirates.

The Flames have jumped into the top four on goal difference at the expense of Campbelltown City, who went down to arch-rivals Adelaide Blue Eagles 2-1 at the bumpy Adey Reserve.

The Raiders kept their undefeated record intact, now 20 games long, with a 0-0 draw against second placed West Torrens Birkalla. Raiders have now cemented the all important double chance in the lead up to the finals. Meanwhile, at Steve Jarvis Park, Salisbury Apaches lost to White City Woodville 1-0.

Mathematicians will be having a great week with all the permutations to consider for the make up of the last two top four places.

Round 20's Match of the Day, and arguably the year, will be Olympians against Adelaide Blue Eagles at Woodville West. The Blue Eagles will hold onto third place if they record a draw or a victory. A heavy defeat for them could see the Eagles move out of the top four if the Red Devils can win handsomely against Warriors.

In the State League, Cumberland heads the table once again after a thumping 7-1 victory over Modbury. The title will be theirs, along with Premier League promotion, if next week they record an away victory over Noarlunga.

Croydon, who briefly regained the lead for a week, are now second after a tough 1-1 draw with Noarlunga. Elizabeth are out of the title race after Port Pirie showed they are now a force in the Smokefree with a convincing 3-2 victory.

Next week, the final State League minor round of the season gets under way. Records gates are expected with plenty at stake.

At Adey Reserve, Blue Eagles' player/coach, Zoran Karadzic, will display why he is so highly regarded in the Premier League.

As the season wears on, Adey Reserve gets harder and the Eagles naturally adapt to the conditions quicker.

It only took 2 minutes before the Blue Eagles led 1-0. Pino Giannitto broke down the left and sent in a dangerous cross which Red Devils keeper Andy Allen managed to fist away, the ball feel nicely to Michael Berlingeri, who was in the right spot as he volleyed the ball home from six metres.

Three minutes later, Red Devil Ric DeRosa collected a loose ball and sent in an inch perfect pass to striker Paul Caporaso on the edge of the box, who slotted the ball into the back of the net to even the score at 1-1.

In the 23rd minute, Joe Berlingeri scored a picture book goal thanks to the assistance of his brother Michael.

The second half opened up with the Devils pressing for an equaliser, as news filtered through from the Olympians and Port Lion clash. In the 58th minute captain Tony Scalzi's thunderbolt from 25 metres brought the best from Blue Eagles custodian Gino De Lucia.

The Red Devils had plenty of possession, with the Blue Eagles playing a counter attacking game.

Red Devils coach, Mario Boffa, made many positional changes late in the second half, and in the final minute of the game Duane Dobson just missed the target.

Thirty seconds later and hard working Paul Beltrame blasted a pile driver from 20 metres out. Once again, DeLucia saved the day with a brilliant, acrobatic fingertip save.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA Premier League

ROUND 20

West Torrens Birkalla	0	Raiders	0
Port Adelaide Lion	1	Olympians	9
Adelaide Blue Eagles	2	Campbelltown City	1
White City Warriors	1	Salisbury United	0

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Raiders	20	13	7	0	43	21	46
West Torrens	20	10	5	5	46	24	35
Ad Blue Eagles	20	9	5	6	32	27	32
Olympians	20	8	5	7	41	34	29
C'town City	20	8	5	7	35	32	29
White City	20	5	5	10	20	30	20
Port Adelaide	20	5	5	10	22	37	20
Salisbury Utd	20	2	3	15	17	51	9

U/23

West Torrens Birkalla	3	Raiders	0
Port Adelaide Lion	6	Olympians	0
Adelaide Blue Eagles	0	Campbelltown City	3
White City Warriors	0	Salisbury United	3
SA Sport Institute	2	West Torrens Birkalla	1

U/19

White City Warriors	3	Salisbury United	2
Adelaide Blue Eagles	0	Campbelltown City	1
Port Adelaide Lion	8	Olympians	1
West Torrens Birkalla	3	Raiders	0

State League

ROUND 21

Elizabeth City	2	Port Pirie City	3
Cumberland United	7	Modbury	1
Croydon	1	Noarlunga United	1
West Adelaide	1	Adelaide City	1
Seaford	1	Enfield City	1
Para Hills Knights	1	Plympton	2

Cumberland United 47, Croydon 46, Elizabeth City 42, Port Pirie City 41, Adelaide City 35, Para Hills Knights 32, Plympton 23, Modbury 22, West Adelaide 21, Enfield City 20, Seaford 12, Noarlunga 12.

U/23

Para Hills Knight	4	Plympton	5
Seaford	4	Enfield City	2
Adelaide Hills	6	Woodville City	0
Croydon	3	Noarlunga United	1
Cumberland United	0	Modbury	0
Port Pirie City	2	Elizabeth City	1

U/19

Croydon	1	Noarlunga United	0
Para Hills Knights	1	Plympton	5
Adelaide Hills	3	Woodville City	0
Cumberland United	1	Modbury	1
Seaford	1	Enfield City	1

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SOUTH AMERICA

— Compiled by Mario Etchart —

CRUZEIRO WINS LIBERTADORES CUP

Brazilian club Cruzeiro have won the 1997 Libertadores Cup — the major South American championship at club level — after a 1-0 victory over Peruvian champion Sporting Cristal at Mineirao stadium in Brazil.

The first leg, played in Lima, finished in a 0-0 draw.

Striker Eliverton scored the only goal of the night with a powerful drive from 30 metres after 30 minutes.

It was the second time in the histroy of the Cup that a Peruvian team reached the final. The previous time was in 1972 when Universitario lost the title against Independiente of Argentina.

For Cruzeiro it is the second Libertadores Cup title. The Brazilians won it, 21 years ago, when they defeated Argentine giant River Plate.

Cruzeiro is the fourth Brazilian club to win the championship twice. The other teams were Santos, Sao Paulo and Gremio.

Cruzeiro's campaign started very badly, losing three games in a row in the first qualifying round against Gremio (1-2 at home), Alianza Lima (1-0 away) and Sporting Cristal (1-0 away). Then, the Brazilians won the next three against Gremio (1-2 away), Alianza Lima (2-0 at home), and Sporting Cristal (2-1 at home).

Cruzeiro 1996: (Back L-R) Dida, Gelson, Gilmar, Vitor, Fabinho, Nonato, Abajo. (Front L-R): Ailton, Palhinha, Paulinho, Ricardinho, Cleison.

In the second qualifying round, Cruzeiro lost the first leg 1-0, against Nacional of Ecuador, and won the second leg 2-1. The Brazilians then beat the Ecuadoreans 5-2 on penalties and qualified for the quarter finals.

Once again Cruzeiro had to overcome the difficult Gremio in the quarter finals. The new champions beat them 2-0, in the first leg and lost 2-1 in away, however they went through to the semi finals because of its better goal difference.

In the semi finals, Cruzeiro beat Chilean champion Colo Colo, winning 1-0 at home and losing 3-2 away. Again, the match was decided by a penalty shoot out, and the Brazilians defeated the Chileans 4-1 in Santiago, to reach the final against Sporting Cristal.

To qualify for the finals, Sporting left behind top clubs like Bolivar of Bolivia, Velez Sarsfield and Racing Club of Argentina, a team who won the championship in 1967, while Velez was the champion in 1994.

Goalkeeper Dida, who was a member of the Brazilian U/20 World Youth Championship winning team in 1993 here in Australia. Cleisson (1 goal), Alex (2 goals), Marcelo (4 goals), Eliverton (2 goals), and Palhinha (2 goals) were the most outstanding players in the squad coached by Paulo Autpei.

Striker Palhinha was also a member of the Sao Paulo team who won the Libertadores Cup in 1992 and 1993. Cruzeiro will represent South America in the final of the World Club championship final (Toyota Cup) facing the European champion, Bayern Munich.

CHILE TO FACE URUGUAY WITH SAME SQUAD

The South American 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds will continue next Wednesday, with a crucial match between Chile and Uruguay at Montevideo's historic Centenario stadium.

For the Chileans, a win or draw will be a good step towards earning a berth in France 98, while for the Uruguayans, it is a must-win situation.

Chile will play the remaining three matches at home, while Uruguay must face Argentina and Peru away and only Ecuador at home.

Chilean coach, Nelson Acosta, named a squad of 21 players, the same that beat Paraguay 2-1 in Santiago.

The only absent player will be midfielder Victor Castaneda, who was sent off in the match against the Paraguayans.

Diego Maradona: Again at Boca Juniors, he could be joined by Claudio Caniggia.

The Chilean squad for the match against Uruguay is:

GOALKEEPERS:
Nelson Tapia (Universidad Catolica) and Marcelo Ramirez (Colo Colo).

DEFENDERS:
Ronald Fuentes, Cristian Castaneda and Miguel Ponce (Universidad Catolica); Marcelo Miranda (Cobreloa); Javier Margas and Nelson Parraguez (Universidad Catolica); Pedro Reyes (Colo Colo) and Jorge Gomez (Temuco).

MIDFIELDERS:
Luis Musrri, Clarence Acuna and Esteban Valencia (Universidad de Chile); Jaime Riveros and Fernando Cornejo (Cobreloa) and Marcelo Vega (Santiago Wanderers).

STRIKERS:
Pedro Gonzalez (Universidad de Chile), Claudio Nunez (Universidad of Nuevo Leon, Mexico), Marcelo Salas (River Plate, Argentina), Ivan Zamorano (Inter Milan, Italy), and Rodrigo Ruiz (Toros Neza, Mexico).

Caniggia Returns to Boca Juniors

After long and difficult negotiations between Boca Juniors president Mauricio Macri and former Argentine international striker Claudio Caniggia, the player will return to the most popular club in Argentina.

Caniggia, who hasn't played an official football match for almost 15 months, was living in Miami with his family, waiting for an offer from an European club that never arrived.

He said that he was pleased to play with his best friend Maradona.

"I am very happy to return to Boca Juniors and play again with Diego. It is a great moment because I can play football again. It will take a bit of time but I will train hard to regain my best physical form and to give Boca Juniors my best," said Caniggia.

Boca Juniors have been a great disappointment to its fans in the last few seasons. Since the departure of Uruguayan tactician Oscar Tavarez, they haven't won anything and have changed coach several times in the last six years, among them Cesar Luis Menotti, Jorge Habberger and Carlos Bilardo.

Since the signing of Hector Veira as coach, the team hasn't improved, finishing in the middle of the table in the last competition, which was won by arch rivals River Plate.

But Mauricio Macri is planning to build another 'dream team'; signing striker Martin Palermo from Estudiantes of La Plata (US$4 million), Mexican international striker Luis Hernandez (US$2 million), Guillermo and Gustavo Barros Schelotto, both from Gimnasia y Esgrima of La Plata (US$3 million), and goalkeeper Ignacio Gonzalez, from Racing Club is also a possiblilty.

The other possibilities are Paraguayan international goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert for whom Velez Sarsfield wants US$6 million, striker Cristian Castillo from Colon of Santa Fe, Velez Sarsfield's defender Mauricio Pellegrino (US$5 million) and another defender, Sergio Castillo from Deportivo Espanol (US$1.5 million).

Brazil's Possession Game

In a recent article from FIFA magazine, the former Brazilian World Cup winning coach - Carlos Alberto Parreira - gives his opinions on why that country has been so successful.

The article talks about the improving fitness of the players and the developments that have changed the shape and way the game is played in Sth America, Brazil especially.

It also considers the influences that have helped to shape the ideology of football and why Brazil's style is noted for being 'Possession Football'.

Parreira adds: "I think Johan Cruyff stated it best, in summing up the modern player, when saying he should devote 87-minutes to the team and three minutes to himself. This is an excellent philosophy for the players of Brazil."

Next week, we'll look at the entire article, it makes for fascinating reading.

NACIONAL SACKS COACH

Due to poor performances, Uruguayan giant Nacional of Montevideo has sacked its coach Miguel Angel Puppo after 15 months at the helm of the senior team.

Puppo, who guided Nacional to win the Uruguayan Soccer league first phase, was promised another one year contract by the club president Ceferino Rodriguez — yet only one week later was sacked.

The two candidates to replace Puppo are Roberto Fleitas, who guided Uruguay to the Copa America in 1987, and De Leon who had a bad spell with Fluminense of Brazil and is back in Montevideo.

Bolivian Team Travels to Guayaquil

Bolivia will travel to Guayaquil in preparation for its crucial game against Columbia in Barranquilla

The altitude and the heat of Guayaquil is similar to Barranquilla, and coach, Antonio Lopez, wants his squad to be well prepared before they face the third placed team in the South American World Cup qualifying rounds.

Star attacking midfielder Julio Baldivieso will be absent. The brilliant footballer, who plays for Japanese team Yokohama, must remain in Japan because of important club commitments.

The first match between Bolivians and Colombians, played in La Paz, ended in a 2-2 draw.

The squad of 18 players for the match against Columbia is: Carlos Trucco, Jose Fernandez, Juan Manuel Pena, Marco Sandy, Oscar Sanchez, Miguel Rimba, Sergio Castillo, Ivan Castillo, Fernando Ochoaizpur, Luis Cristaldo, Ruben Tufino, Erwin Sanchez, Marco Etcheverry, Mauro Blanco, Jaime Moreno, Demetrio Angola, Limbert Gutierrez and Milton Coimbra.

"We will go to Barranquilla to play an attacking game, like if we were at home. We have great respect for Colombia, but I think we can beat them if we put pressure on them from the start," said optimistic Bolivian coach Antonio Lopez.

"We will go to Barranquilla to play an attacking game, like if we were at home. We have great respect for Colombia, but I think we can beat them if we put pressure on them from the start"

Weird & Wonderful 1928-29

By STUART JONES

There was only one change to membership for this season in the Football League. Durham City were not re-elected and their place went to another northern club but this one was from the west coast, Carlisle United.

The Division One title went to a club who had been part of the relegation battle the previous season, Sheffield Wednesday, led by Jimmy Seed. The Sheffield club won their first top flight title by a point over Leicester City. The race looks much tighter at the finish than it had been, as on the last day, the Foxes won 6-1 at home, while Wednesday went down 1-4 away to third placed Aston Villa.

At the bottom, Bury and Cardiff finished well behind the pack and were relegated. For Cardiff it was the end of the club's most successful era, their downturn in fortunes exemplified by them scoring only nine goals away from home all season.

Middlesbrough were champions of Division Two with George Camsell scoring 30 goals. Grimsby were runners-up and also gained promotion. At the bottom, Port Vale and Clapton Orient went down.

In the third divisions, Bradford City took the title by a point from Stockport County in the North. The South went to Charlton on goal difference from Crystal Palace. A further four teams were a win behind, including Plymouth Argyle, yet again just out of the promotion race. Both Athletic and Palace were victorious on the final day leaving Charlton champions because they had a very large percentage differential over their south London rivals.

The FA Cup saw Bolton play Huddersfield and Portsmouth take on Aston Villa in the semi-finals. Bolton (3-1), and Portsmouth (1-0), were victorious and so matched up at Wembley in front of 92,576 people for the Final. The hope for the south were Pompey but the Trotters were aiming for their third Final win at Wembley. Portsmouth started strongly with some pressing football giving their supporters hope of an upset. Bolton played within themselves and their experience was to carry the day. It was not until twelve minutes from time that Bolton broke the deadlock with a Butler goal. Almost from the kick-off, Bolton broke again and this time it was Blackmore who doubled the score. When referee Josephs blew full-time, it was Bolton's Cup once more.

Despite the loss of several key players, Kettering successfully retained the Eastern Section title of the Southern League. They were five points clear of Peterborough & Fletton United. Grays Thurrock finished bottom but in the Western Section it was Plymouth Reserves all the way as they only lost five games all season. Compare that to bottom place Merthyr Town Reserves who only managed three victories. Unlike the previous season, Kettering did not dominate the play-off Final and in fact it was Plymouth Reserves who came out on top at Rockingham Road, with a 4-2 victory.

Rangers won yet another Division One title in Scotland, which was fairly normal by this time. However, what was unusual was the size of their win. Second placed Celtic were 16-points behind, and that in the days of two points for a win! The only game they lost all season was 1-3 away to Hamilton. In fact, only fifth placed Queens Park scored over 100 goals apart from Rangers. However, the Gers only conceded 32. 15 of their 38 matches saw the opposition fail to score. Third Lanark and Raith Rovers were relegated and replaced by Dundee United and Morton who had had a close battle for the top spot in Division Two all season. On April 27, Dundee United defeated East Stirling 3-1, which meant that Morton's 3-2 away victory at Queen of the South was of little value.

In the lower division, two sides fell by the wayside through the season. Bathgate resigned with eight games to go, their record being annulled and not recognised, not that it affected the top as both Dundee United and Morton had defeated the side both home and away. Arthurlie then resigned four games later but their record stood as all their remaining fixtures had no affect on the top of the table. Officially therefore, Armadale finished bottom on 23 points, having conceded some 99 goals.

The Scottish Cup Final was supposed to see more Rangers success. They had been victorious 11-1 in the first round versus Edinburgh City. Their opposing finalists had won the same round 8-1. Rangers defeated Partick Thistle 5-1 in the second round, Clyde 2-0 in the third and Dundee United 3-1 in the fourth. The other semi-final saw Kilmarnock tagged underdogs against Celtic. However, it was an ill wind that blew at Ibrox that day once again for Celtic as Killie went through with the only goal of the game.

So to the Final at Hampden Park, and Rangers second defeat of the whole season as Kilmarnock upset them 2-0. The team from the county of Ayrshire were deserved winners of the Scottish FA Cup, having done it the hard way by defeating both of the major forces in Scottish football in the final two rounds.

***Bathgate resigned, record is shown but not recognised by the league.*

AROUND EUROPE THE CHAMPIONS WERE:

Austria - SK Rapid Wien (Cup - First Vienna FC)
Belgium - Royal Antwerp
Bulgaria - Botev Plovdiv
Germany - SPVgg Furth
Holland - PSV Eindhoven
Italy - Bologna FBC 3-1, 0-1, 1-0 FBC Torino
Poland - Warta Poznan
Romania - Venus Bucuresti
Spain - FC Barcelona (first champions of the newly formed national league) (Cup - RCD Espanol)
Sweden - Helsingborg
Switzerland - BSC Young Boys-Berne (Cup - Urania Geneve

ENGLAND – DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Wed	42	18	3	0	55	16	3	7	11	31	46	52
Leicester C	42	16	5	0	67	22	5	4	12	29	45	51
A Villa	42	16	2	3	62	30	7	2	12	36	51	50
Sunderland	42	16	2	3	67	30	4	5	12	26	45	47
Liverpool	42	11	4	6	53	28	6	8	7	37	36	46
Derby Co	42	12	5	4	56	24	6	5	10	30	47	46
Blackburn R	42	11	6	4	42	26	6	5	10	30	37	45
Manchester C	42	12	3	6	63	40	6	6	9	32	46	45
Arsenal	42	11	6	4	43	25	5	7	9	34	47	45
Newcastle	42	15	2	4	48	29	4	4	13	22	43	44
Sheff Utd	42	12	5	4	57	30	3	6	12	29	55	41
Manchester Utd	42	8	8	5	32	33	6	5	10	34	53	41
Leeds Utd	42	11	5	5	42	28	5	4	12	29	56	41
Bolton W	42	10	6	5	44	25	4	6	11	29	55	40
Birmingham	42	8	7	6	37	32	7	3	11	31	45	40
Huddersfield T	42	9	6	6	45	23	5	5	11	25	38	39
West Ham Utd	42	11	6	4	55	31	4	3	14	31	65	39
Everton	42	11	2	8	38	31	6	2	13	25	44	38
Burnley	42	12	5	4	55	32	3	3	15	26	71	38
Portsmouth	42	13	2	6	43	26	2	4	15	13	54	36
Bury	42	9	5	7	38	35	3	2	16	24	64	31
Cardiff C	42	7	7	7	34	26	1	6	14	9	33	29

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	42	14	4	3	54	22	8	7	6	38	35	55
Grimsby T	42	16	2	3	49	24	8	3	10	33	37	53
Bradford	42	18	2	1	62	22	4	2	15	26	48	48
Southampton	42	12	6	3	48	22	5	8	8	26	38	48
Notts Co	42	13	4	4	51	24	6	5	10	27	41	47
Stoke C	42	12	7	2	46	16	5	5	11	28	35	46
WBA	42	13	4	4	50	25	6	4	11	30	54	46
Blackpool	42	13	4	4	49	18	6	3	12	43	58	45
Chelsea	42	10	6	6	40	30	7	4	10	24	35	44
Tottenham H	42	16	3	2	50	26	1	6	14	25	55	43
Nottingham F	42	8	6	7	34	33	7	6	8	37	37	42
Hull City	42	8	8	5	38	24	5	6	10	20	39	40
Preston NE	42	12	6	3	58	27	3	3	15	20	52	39
Millwall	42	10	4	7	43	35	6	3	12	28	51	39
Reading	42	12	3	6	48	30	3	6	12	15	56	39
Barnsley	42	12	4	5	51	28	4	2	15	18	38	38
Wolves W	42	9	6	6	41	31	6	1	14	36	50	37
Oldham A	42	15	2	4	37	24	1	2	17	17	51	37
Swansea T	42	12	3	6	46	26	1	7	13	16	49	36
Bristol C	42	11	6	4	37	25	2	4	15	21	47	36
Port Vale	42	14	1	6	53	25	1	3	17	18	61	34
Clapton O	42	10	4	7	29	25	2	4	15	16	47	32

DIVISION 3 North

BRADFORD C 63, Stockport Co 62, Wrexham 52, Wigan B 51, Doncaster R 50, Lincoln C 48, Tranmere R 47, Carlisle U 46, Crewe A 44, Sth Shields 44, Chesterfield 41, Southport C 40, Halifax T 39, New Brighton 39, Nelson 39, Rotherham U 39, Rochdale 36, Accrington S 34, Darlington 33, Barrow 28, Hartlepools Utd 26, Ashington 23.

DIVISION 3 South

CHARLTON A 54, C Palace 54, Northampton T 52, Plymouth A 52, Fulham 52, QPR 52, Luton T 49, Watford 48, Bournemouth 47, Swindon T 43, Coventry C 42, Southend Utd 41, Brentford 38, Walsall 38, Brighton & Hove Alb 38, Newport Co 35, Norwich C 34, Torquay Utd 34, Bristol R 33, Merthyr T 30, Exeter C 29, Gillingham 29.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE Eastern Section

KETTERING TOWN 52, Peterborough & Fletton Utd 47, Brighton & Hove Alb Res 47, Millwall Res 46, Bourtnemouth Res 45, Aldershot Town 41, Sheppey Utd 41, Folkestone 40, Northfleet Utd 38, Gillingham Res 38, Guildford City 37, Southampton Res 34, Poole 34, Thames Association 31, Dartford 26, Chatham 24, Sittingbourne 23, Norwich City Res 22, Grays Thurrock Utd 18.

England Southern League Western Section

Plymouth Arg Res 36, Newport Co Res 32, Bristol R Res 31, Bristol C Res 30, Torquay Utd Res 30, Bath City 30, Exeter City Res 28, Lovells Athletic 28, Swindon T Res 27, Yeovil & Petters Utd 24, Taunton Town 23, Ebbw Vale 23, Barry 15, Merthyr Town Res 7.

SCOTLAND Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	38	30	7	1	107	32	67
Celtic	38	22	7	9	67	44	51
Motherwell	38	20	10	8	85	66	50
Hearts	38	19	9	10	91	57	47
Queens Park	38	18	7	13	100	69	43
Partick T	38	17	7	14	91	70	41
Aberdeen	38	16	8	14	81	68	40
St Mirren	38	16	8	14	78	75	40
St Johnstone	38	14	10	14	57	70	38
Kilmarnock	38	14	8	16	79	74	36
Falkirk	38	14	8	16	68	86	36
Hamilton A	38	13	9	16	58	83	35
Cowdenbeath	38	14	5	19	55	69	33
Hibernian	38	13	6	19	54	62	32
Airdrie	38	12	7	19	56	65	31
Ayr Utd	38	12	7	19	65	84	31
Clyde	38	12	6	20	47	71	30
Dundee	38	9	11	18	59	69	29
T Lanark	38	10	6	22	71	102	26
Raith R	38	9	6	23	52	105	24

Division 2

DUNDEE UTD 51, Morton 50, Arbroath 47, Albion R 44, Leith A 43, St Bernard's 41, Forfar A 38, East Fife 36, Queen of the South 36, Bo'ness 35, Dunfermline A 33, E Stirling 32, Alloa 31, Dumbarton 31, Kings Park 29, Clydebank 27, Arthurlie* 25, Stenhousmuir 24, Armadale 23, Bathgate** 12.

*Arthurlie resigned towards the end of the season — but their record was allowed to stand.

UK NEWS

By MICKY BROCK

Nil-Two down at the Lane?

Arsenal duo Patrick Vieira and Matthew Upson have been suspended for three matches, effective from August 25, after being sent-off in the 0-1 friendly defeat by PSV Eindhoven during the pre-season. Both will miss the big north London derby clash unless the Frenchman escapes punishment after the FA agreed to forward video evidence to their Dutch counterparts.

Vieira, in such sparkling form since joining the Gunners last season, may be more worried about getting his place back in the side after the pre-season spending of manager Arsene Wenger.

Transfer merry-go-round continues

JOHN BARNES finally confirmed he will not be joining West Ham United but was enticed to St James Park after being given a free transfer by Liverpool after ten years of loyal service. Hammers manager, Harry Redknapp, was certain the player would be going to the Boleyn Ground after saying he had received word from the former Watford and England star that he would sign on for the east end club.

Barnes stated he owed it to himself to talk to Newcastle because they can offer him a chance of glory in the European Champions League.

Redknapp became indignant and accused the player of 'going back on his word' and admitting to feeling 'betrayed' by Dalglish when it was reported the player had decided to join his former manager at Newcastle.

Dalglish, having signed Barnes ten years earlier when in the hot seat at Anfield, secured the player on a two year contract and is eligible to play in the Champions League if the Magpies make it past Croatia Zagreb, which looks likely.

Barnes later apologised to Redknapp after phoning to tell him of his decision.

Meanwhile, former West Ham darling, Tony Cottee, has returned to England after a stint in Malaysia, to play with Leicester City in the Premier League. This will be his third Premier League club after spending time with Everton and two spells with the Hammers.

Still with West Ham, it appears they are very close to signing former Everton and England defender David Unsworth in a part-exchange deal which could see Danny Williamson going in the opposite direction. Both players have agreed personal terms and should it go through, the Hammers will command a one million pound fee in addition to the player.

The spanner in the works has come in the form of Crystal Palace manager Steve Coppell. The south London side are rumoured to be attempting to snatch the player away from under the nose of their London rivals

Coppell, who fined Italian star Attilio Lombardo for turning up late at Selhurst Park for their Premier League clash with Barnsley, confirmed they had made a 1.5 million pound bid for Unsworth and were awaiting a reply.

If they fail in their bid to capture his signature, they may well turn their attentions to former Chelsea defender Ian Pearce, who is keen for a return to the south.

Southampton signed Norwegian striker Stig Johansen from Bodo Glimt for 550,000 pounds last week and are now rumoured to be chasing fellow countryman Petter Rudi.

Rudi is the current Norwegian U-21 midfielder, also being watched by Sheffield Wednesday, and would take the Viking contingent at the Dell to four if the move is completed.

Blackburn Rover boss, Roy Hodgson, is believed to have the largest transfer kitty available in the Premier League at present as owner Sir Jack Walker opens the purse strings in an attempt to bring the Lancashire side back into contention.

With the recent transfers of Le Saux (Chelsea) and Henning Berg (Manchester United) bringing in 10 million pounds in just four days, it's thought the overall cash balance is 37 million in the managers favour after being told fees from the recent sale of players would be added to what's already in the bank.

It was reported that Hodgson was promised 25 million to spend on players as part of the condition he joined Blackburn from Inter Milan.

Martin O'Neill, Leicester City boss, had a 2 million bid for Tottenham's Ruel Fox turned down, and has now been linked with Barnsley defender Arjan De Zeeuw.

Premiership newcomers Bolton Wanderers have recalled French striker Marc Libra for a second trial spell after manager Colin Todd checked over the 25-year old earlier this month.

Wright On Verge Of Record

IAN WRIGHT has scored three Premiership goals in two matches for the Gunners this season, putting him just one goal away from equalling the all-time Arsenal goal-scoring record held by Cliff 'Boy' Bastin, set in the 1930s.

Wright, formerly with Crystal Palace before joining the north London club during the 1991/92 season, has a phenomenal goal-to-game ratio at Highbury and was expected to break the record last season. Having begun this term in such devastating form, what odds the record being broken in Arsenal's next match?

Barnes and Beardsley: Re-united with former manager Kenny Dalglish at Newcastle.

Captain Ince

PAUL INCE, who replaced John Barnes as the captain of Liverpool, has asked the Anfield faithful not to presume his presence at the club will guarantee them the title after joining in a 4.2 million pound deal from Inter Milan during the close-season. He feels that euphoria has taken the place of commonsense.

The rugged England midfielder, known to team-mates as 'the Guvnor', said: "People have said that because I've signed we are going to win the title. That's unfair, not only to me but to the lads who have been here for years and the other new ones. I'm just a part of things here, another cog in the machine."

Liverpool looked less than awe inspiring in their opening game at Wimbledon but, as we predicted, keep an eye on young Michael Owens, who netted the equaliser from the penalty spot after a series of squandered half-chances.

Coca Cola Cup Shocks

FORMER CRYSTAL Palace striker Andy Preece added more despair for the Maine Road supporters as he volleyed a spectacular 73-minute winner for Blackpool against Manchester City, a very welcome first cup-tie win for new manager Nigel Worthington.

Another new manager, Kerry Dixon, was left in a state of shock after watching Nottingham Forest ram eight goals past his Doncaster Rovers side.

Rovers, four million pounds in debt and already in the hands of an administrator because they are unable to pay the Inland Revenue, were extremely pleased with the 4,500 crowd, almost double their normal gate, at the Belle Vue Ground, although, described by many visiting fans as 'derelict'.

Dixon, ex-Reading, Chelsea and England, said: "It's not easy having an 8-0 result on your CV. The performance was a shambles."

Unlike Premier League sides Bolton and Derby, third division Doncaster are unlikely to be moving into a new state-of-the-art stadium in the foreseeable future and could, if the current trend continues, find themselves playing in the GM Vauxhall Conference League next season.

Nottingham Forest's Welsh striker, Dean Saunders, who took part in the mauling of Rovers and scored twice after coming on as a substitute, has made it clear he will he will leave the club if he fails to obtain a regular first-team place.

Vas Kalageracos, recent Stockport County signing, must have been wondering if he made the right decision as the Hatters went down 2-4 to little Mansfield Town in the first leg of their Coca Cola Cup tie. Third division side Mansfield don't believe the tie is over yet, as Stockport's Colin Woodthorpe managed to score with a belting 30-yard drive 15-minutes from time to at least give them a glimmer of hope in the return fixture. The Town will be praying for another hat-trick from Iyseden Christie.

Surprise, Surprise

THE FOOTBALL Association have charged Chelsea's Frank Sinclair with misconduct after the player appeared to drop his shorts after scoring in their opening Premiership game at Highfield Road, proving once again the governing body has no sense of humour.

This came as a double blow for the player as the side went down 2-3 to a Dion Dublin hat-trick.

In another edict by the FA, Manchester United have been forced to shelve plans for the introduction of their 'pay-per-view' experiment, in the interim at least. United, the most dominant force in English football over the last five years, could not get the permission of the FA to trial the controversial television specials, believed to be in conjunction with Britain's largest independent network, Granada TV, although they are likely to lobby Lancaster Gate further.

Ground Update

DERBY COUNTY moved away from their traditional Baseball Ground and into the brand new 'Pride Park' stadium in time for this season and looked forward to playing their first home match of the term, against Wimbledon. A respectable crowd of over 24,000 turned out for the history making event and what an evening it turned out to be.

The Rams turned on the style as new signing Stefanio Eranio, arriving on a 'free' from AC Milan, ran amok against the Dons defence, twisting and turning them this way and that before, in the 20-minute, his overlapping run to the byline allowed a team-mate to lay on an inch perfect cross for Ward to tuck away the opening goal.

Unfortunately, Wimbledon managed to equalise from a corner just a minute later when Chris Perry beat Derby keeper, Mark Poom, with a downward header.

Once again it was the visitors who found themselves behind when the new cult-hero, Eranio, fired Derby ahead in the 33rd minute.

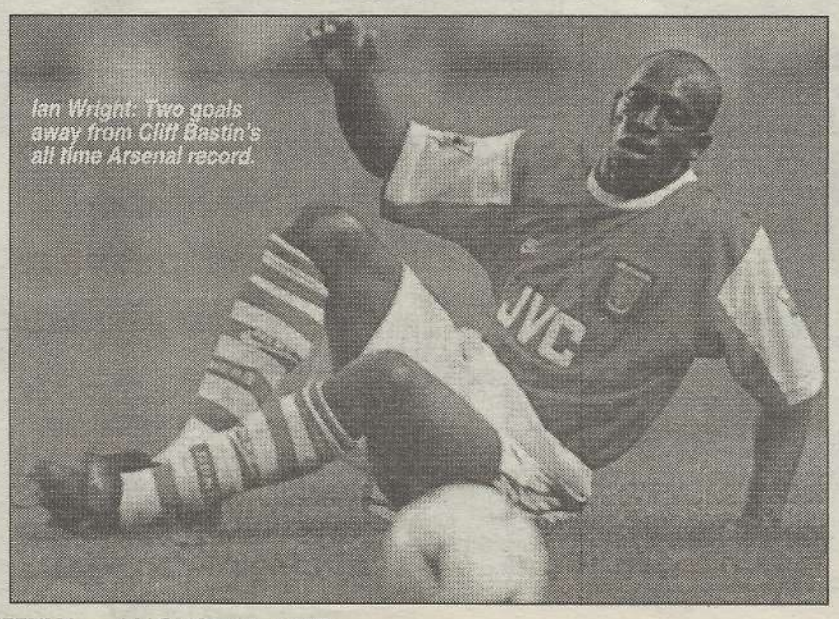
Jubilation turned to confusion twelve minutes into the second term when the floodlights at the 20 million pound stadium failed. For over 25-minutes the supporters were left wondering what was going on as no announcements were made. Confusion became joy as the lights eventually came back on but then despair took over as the referee declared the match was to be, quite rightly, abandoned.

After almost thirty minutes of waiting, the Derby players spending this time on the pitch in their tracksuits, the participants would have cooled down after the pre-match warm-ups and actual play, increasing the danger of serious injury.

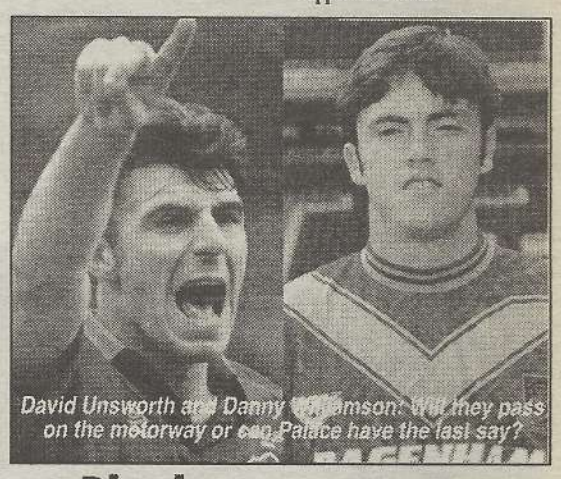
Sadly for Derby, the goals will be expunged from the record books, the result cannot possibly stand, the match will have to be replayed at some time in the future and when the Dons are involved, there's no guarantees the match will go the same way.

Isn't it great to know that for all the forward planning, something taken for granted can still go so amusingly wrong. It is, after all, only a technical hitch and the ground is quite magnificent, and no doubt this will crop up in trivia evenings for many years to come.

Bolton Wanderers, at time of writing, were still to play their first competitive match at the new Reebok Stadium, set against the magnificent backdrop of the Pennines but one thing is certain, they'll be hoping for a far better result than the Rams when they finally open the doors to the paying customers.



Ian Wright: Two goals away from Cliff Bastin's all time Arsenal record.



David Unsworth and Danny Williamson: Will they pass on the motorway or can Palace have the last say?

Blank Weekends

THERE WERE no games in the Premier League last weekend due to 'World Cup qualifiers' taking place. This, surprisingly, didn't involve the England team but with so many 'foreign stars' now plying their trade in the UK, if the games were to continue it would leave only those 'inferior Brits' to put on a show.

Much as it seems wonderful so many people want to play in the top flight of world football these days, the first signs of major pitfalls that lay along the path begin to rear their head.

To overstock the greatest world league, at this point in time, with imports results in fewer homegrown players taking the field. That, in turn, leads to a lessening of experience for these players which will directly, or indirectly depending upon your viewpoint, takes its toll on the national side.

With the Bosman Ruling allowing freedom of movement for EEC players finding themselves out of contract, more and more will move abroad, dispensing with the transfer fee for their club but a larger 'signing on fee' for the individual. Flood any market with imports and not only does the national debt of that country increase, so does unemployment!

The same can be said for football. The younger players will find the route to first team matches blocked by imports, clubs will soon decide not to spend vast amounts on producing their own talent when it's far cheaper to purchase from overseas and the verdict isn't too hard to work out.

With fewer avenues of opportunity for the youngsters to tread, lower quality footballers will be produced as more and more find their way into other areas of earning a living and supporting a family. The percentages for young footballers making it into the big time at present is low to say the least, how many more will be dissuaded from taking the gamble if this practice continues?

The upshot remains simple: Fewer quality players coming through, for a variety of reasons, leading to a general dropping of standards within that country. Italy, to a certain degree, suffered this when it was the Serie A that shone alone as the world's number one league but now appear to be back on track. What happened there can also happen in Britain.

However, as with Italy, these things will go in cycles. As the imports grow older, their effectiveness will dim. The countries producing the better players will see their own leagues suffer as more and more leave their shores. This means they will either have to buy or produce their own. Eventually, the production line breaks down for a while but while being repaired, they import players. As more and more are imported, the leagues they leave behind must produce their own players and so on.

As a portent of what's around the corner perhaps, what better example than to see a league close down for a weekend even though their national side is not involved in a competitive match. If this is what is in store, how long before the clubs totally strip the governing bodies of their powers and turn up for matches at the home of the highest bidder, wherever that may be in the world?

Things will probably never get that bad, we hope, but it proves to be a very scary scenario all the same.

The simple fact remains, like kids with new toys, the clubs will explore, probe and dissect any new rulings, any new way to grab a few extra millions quickly but, once the novelty factor wears off and they tire of it, they'll find a new toy to play with and the old one will be consigned to the shelf, or under the bed, for many years.

ABSW news in BRIEF

One way of looking at the rugby/super league scene has been to check just how low the crowds are, this was a regular Monday morning task with 'The Australian' providing the figures.

For instance, Hunter Mariners play at Topper Stadium. There crowds have been bordering on the ridiculous, even as low as 1,600. Now this is the very same venue that Newcastle Topper Breakers use for their Ericsson Cup games, and they consistently attract 6,000 or more.

How much space and time do the Newcastle media devote to each of these ground sharing teams? Would not mind betting that the other codes receives much more than Association Football.

On Monday, August 11 any further research on crowds at the Murdoch 'owned' or establishment games came to a halt. The crowd figures were not there!

What is the matter with the ruling bodies? Must be seriously embarrassed!

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PARRAMATTA Eagles once more proved themselves the champion club in the competitions of NSW.

Steve Karavatakis

The Eagles won the premierships of Super League Firsts, U/21 and U18.

Steve Karavatakis was a smart signing, in fact he finished as leading scorer in Super League with 15.

Not only that but they are well ahead in the Super Youth League combined points. This is the elite competition for U/13, U/14, U/15 and U/16 players.

Some influential folks at the club are, understandably, still bitter about their elimination from the National League. They would like nothing better than to be back there.

Their chances seem slight. However, if they are prepared to take a share in a newly forming club which has appeal to the whole of Sydney, then they could conceivably once more parade on the greater stage, but not in their red and white outfit.

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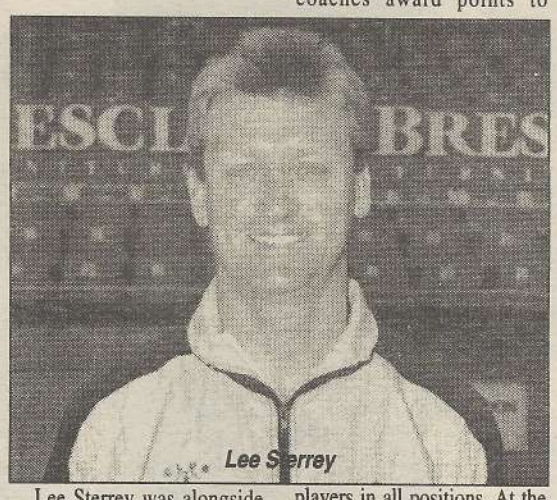
ZORAN MATIC was at Gabbie Stadium, Seven Hills the other Saturday watching Bonnyrigg White Eagles and Leichhardt Tigers. He was seen smiling!

When asked about this 'change' Matic insists he often smiles and jokes but never when he is on the sidelines at a game involving his team.



Lee Sterrey

Lee Sterrey was alongside the recently appointed Marconi coach. After a number of years, at firstly Sydney United and most recently Marconi, successfully coaching Youth teams, Sterrey has been appointed Assistant to Matic.

This must be a unique double because Lee's brother, Glenn, is assistant coach at Adelaide City.

Both Sterrey boys were highly accomplished, uncompromising defenders in the National and NSW State Leagues.

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GREAT innovation! Marconi Fairfield take their first team to meet fellow Ericsson Cup team, Brisbane Strikers, at Lismore on Saturday, August 30.

The current champions are the nearest Ericsson Cup team to Lismore. They are expected to field former Socceroo star and current Strikers Coach, Frank Farina. He will be ably

Zoran Matic

supported by the younger brigade.

Expected to be in the Strikers team is New Zealand international Chris Zoricich, who has recently returned from a spell in England.

Marconi will have their first outing under new coach Zoran Matic. It will be interesting to see who is in goal as regular in recent seasons, Bob Catlin, has joined Olympic.

Kick off is 7.30pm with a Semi-Final of the local all age competition at 5.30. This should be a fantastic event and well worth seeing.

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EACH week in the Lismore District Premier league coaches award points to players in all positions. At the end of the season the points are compiled and a "Dream Team' selected.

Radio station ZZZ sponsors this team. A match is then played between them and the local champions. This must certainly add quite a bit of interest.

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LITTLE BITS of information keep filtering in about the 1974 Socceroos. George Green, then of PA Management Consultants, supplied the fact that this was the first Australian team to have on their support staff a psychologist — John Burgess was the man appointed.

An ignorant but high profile aussie rules commentator in Melbourne seriously asked, "What's wrong with these blokes? Are they all mad? Why else would they need a psychiatrist?"

Jimmy Mackay on arrival at Sydney after their memorable third and deciding game in Hong Kong with South Korea had this to say, "When the ball landed at my feet, I could visualise the ball in the back of the net. I struck it and that's where it went. I put this down to the work done by our psychologist."

It quickly became the norm for sports teams to have a psychologist on board. Incidentally, this gentleman came from PA Management.

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IN 1974 my cricket team was the Chase Club, on Sydney's north shore. We were playing on that Saturday when Australia and South Korea met in Hong Kong.

It was the first session of a two day game. Our skipper won the toss and elected to bat.

Someone had a portable television. In the dressing room we found a power point that worked and we set up the equipment.

The scorers job was not very popular that day, especially when the game in Hong Kong got underway.

Naturally we cheered the good moves by Australia (ridiculous really because they couldn't actually hear us).

As the games outside and in Hong Kong wore on, the opposition skipper came to the dressing room and asked if we could keep the noise down! He was politely told where to go.

The noise when Jimmy Mackay hit the winner was amazing and again when the final whistle blew.

No, sorry no idea how we went in the cricket game.

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THERE'S a neat position in South Australia, probably unique, that of Ambassador Soccer SA. The person currently filling the position is Joan Hall MP.

Joan sent out a Media Release last week announcing that Mutual Community would be sponsors of South Australia's Top Four Soccer Series for all divisions of the State and Premier Leagues.

Mutual Community's Adam Longshaw said at the launch, "Soccer in Australia has never been at a more exciting stage. The success of the National League and upcoming Olympics has given Soccer a great platform upon which to build. Mutual Community is proud of its association with Soccer, and we are very pleased about sponsoring the Top Four Soccer Series."

All games will be held at Thebarton Oval starting on August 30 with the Grand Final on Saturday, September 13.

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ITALIAN Soccer returns to SBS TV on September 7 at 10.30am. The thrill of seeing Juventus, Inter, AC Milan, Lazio perform on this exciting program is as good as it gets unless you can be there in person.

All 34 rounds will be covered in the weekly one hour show.

Ronaldo has moved to Inter for a mammoth fee, Maldini continues to perform superbly for city rivals AC. We can watch it in our own homes.

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THURSDAY September 18 at 8.30pm is yet another time to tune into SBS. The 'Soccer Station' will be telecasting highlights of the first matches of the European Champions League.

From then on Saturdays from 5.30pm, SBS will bring us a program on this highly prestigious competition.

Borussia Dortmund, the European Cup holders, Juventus, Manchester United will be just some of the clubs competing.

Matthew Bingley

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NEWS from Kobe, Japan is that Matthew Bingley has scored his first goal for his new club.

In the second half of the J-League season, Vissel Kobe are struggling, which is no surprise to coach Stuart Baxter.

The club have had a number of changes in personnel, one of whom is Bingley.

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VOLUME 1 of 'Carlton', the official magazine of the Carlton Soccer Club, has been issued.

It is a high quality gloss paper, 48 page publication which has obviously cost a great deal to produce. It oozes class. The new entrant onto the Ericsson Cup scene promises to be a formidable one.

Eddie Krncevic is Senior Coach with his Assistant being Fab Incantalupo. They have a Fitness Advisor called Darren Welch, who also contributes an article to the magazine on 'Fitness'.

Jeff Olver, the much capped former Australia international representative, has responsibility for junior development with the Blues.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Victoria. They won the Australian Secondary Schools National Championships which was run recently in Adelaide.

Chris James is preparing a report with appropriate photographs which will be in ABSW dated August 26.

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